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STARS AND STRIPES®

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TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

N. Korea fires projectiles into the sea for 2nd week in a row

BY KIM GAMEL
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea fired three projectiles that flew about 125 miles before splashing into the sea off its eastern coast on Monday, South Korea's military said, the second such weapons test in a week.

The launches were a fiery reminder that the North still poses a threat as nuclear talks with the U.S. have been deadlocked for more than a year.

They occurred as both Koreas and the U.S. military are battling the deadly coronavirus, which has rapidly spread after first appearing in China in late December.

The projectiles reached a maximum altitude of about 31 miles after they were fired from an area near Sondok, according to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Seoul.

Military officials said the launches appeared to be testing various multiple rocket launchers as part of the North's annual winter exercises.

"The military is monitoring the situation and maintaining a readiness posture in case of additional launches," the JCS said.

It didn't immediately provide more details, such as the type of weapons launched or how far they flew.

"We are aware of a North Korean missile launch this morning into the East Sea, will continue to the East Sea, will continue to

SEE PROJECTILES ON PAGE 3

Military officials said the launches appeared to be testing various multiple rocket launchers as part of the North's annual winter exercises.



Markets plunge over virus fears

Anxiety grips companies, oil prices sink, sites close around the world as COVID-19 spreads

BY PAUL WISEMAN AND STAN CHOI
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Since breaking out of China, the coronavirus has breached the walls of the Vatican. It's struck the Iranian holy city of Qom and contaminated a nursing home in Seattle.

And around the world, it's carrying not just sickness and death but also the anxiety and paralysis that can smother economic growth.

On Monday, global oil prices suffered their worst percentage losses since the start of the 1991 Gulf War, and the S&P 500 plunged so quickly in the first few minutes of trading that it triggered a 15-minute halt in trading.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average

lost 1,255 points, or 4.9%, to 24,605 after briefly being down more than 2,000. The Nasdaq gave up 4.4%.

From Florida, where the CEO of a toy maker who can't get products from Chinese factories is preparing layoffs, to Hong Kong, where the palatial Jumbo Kingdom restaurant is closed, businesses are struggling. The virus has grounded a British airline, and it's sunk a Japanese cruise ship company.

The cumulative damage is mounting.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development this week slashed its forecast for global growth for this year to 2.4% from 2.9%. It warned that Japan

SEE VIRUS ON PAGE 6

RELATED STAFF COVERAGE

■ Navy closes schools, halts group activities in Naples

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■ S. Korean worker linked to US base in Daegu infected, raising USFK total to 8 cases

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Trader Michael Gallucci prepares for the day's activity Monday at the New York Stock Exchange. Coronavirus fears and plunging oil prices triggered a brief halt in Wall Street trading Monday morning.

RICHARD DREW/AP

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Twitter says done deal will keep Dorsey as CEO

The Associated Press

Twitter says it's reached an investment deal with Silver Lake and Elliott Management that will keep Jack Dorsey as the social media company's CEO.

Twitter Inc. said Monday that Silver Lake will make a \$1 billion investment in the company. That money, along with cash on hand, is expected to be put toward a \$2 billion stock buyback. Elliott Management Corp., which owns about 4% of Twitter's stock, will

get a seat on Twitter's board. Silver Lake will also get a seat.

Prior media reports had suggested Elliott was planning to nominate four people to Twitter's board and oust Dorsey.

But the new agreement makes it seem likely he will stay. Twitter has lagged behind businesses like Facebook and Google in terms of user growth and advertising revenue. Dorsey left the company to start payments company Square Inc., but returned in 2015. Now he splits his time between Square

and Twitter.

Last week the company said it was testing "Fleets," a tweet that disappears in 24 hours, as a response to critics who say Twitter hasn't introduced very many new product features. The feature is reminiscent of Instagram and Facebook "stories" and Snapchat's snaps, which let users post short-lived photos and messages. Such features are increasingly popular with social-media users looking for smaller groups and more private chats.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro (cents) (March 10)	\$1.1738
Dollar (cents) (March 10)	\$0.8519
British pound (March 10)	\$1.34
Japanese yen (March 10)	103.00
South Korean won (March 10)	1,172.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.3101
Chinese yuan (Renminbi)	0.1357
China (Yuan)	6.9492
Denmark (Krone)	6.5500
Egypt (Pound)	15.7432
Euro (cents) (March 10)	\$1.1403/0.970
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7713
Hungary (Forint)	295.33
India (Rupee)	82.00
Japan (Yen)	102.43
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3051
Norway (Krone)	9.5168
Poland (Zlote)	3.78
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7541
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3842
South Korea (Won)	1,200.78

Switzerland (Franc).....0.9308
Thailand (Baht).....31.47
Turkey (Lira).....6,121.47
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, France, Italy, and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), please visit your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are bank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to U.S. dollars, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.25
Discount rate	1.75
Federal funds market rate	1.58
3-month bill	0.49
30-year bond	1.22

WEATHER OUTLOOK

TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



TUESDAY IN EUROPE



WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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PCSing? STARS AND STRIPES RELOCATION GUIDE

Every Friday in the European and Pacific editions
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MILITARY

Two US service members killed in Iraq

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

Two U.S. service members were killed during a mission to destroy an Islamic State stronghold in a mountainous area of north-central Iraq, the military said Monday.

They were supporting Iraqi security forces during the operation Sunday and were killed by enemy forces, the U.S.-led Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve said in a statement.

ISIS was routed from the swath of territory it controlled in Iraq in December 2018 and from Syria a year ago, but has continued to wage an insurgency in the

two countries, where more than 5,000 U.S. troops are deployed to help equip, train and support local partner forces battling the terrorist group.

Iraqi security forces have sought to eliminate ISIS militants who have taken refuge in some of the country's rugged mountain ranges, including the Hamrin and Makhmour mountains west of Kirkuk, where the militants are reported to be training and regrouping.

On Monday, Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Service commandos clashed with militants on Qarah Dagh mountain, part of the Makhmour range, after discovering ISIS tunnels there, the country's security information cell said on Twitter. Several

terrorists were killed during the mission, the post said.

Iraqi special operations forces, aided by international coalition aircraft, carried out an air assault in the mountains and destroyed several tunnels, the ICTS said on Twitter on Monday in a post that included photos of troops on rocky slopes.

The elite unit was formed with U.S. assistance and its soldiers have been trained and often accompanied into battle by American Green Berets. But it was unclear whether the two Americans were killed in the same assault.

The U.S.-led coalition did not immediately respond to an inquiry on the matter.

The identities and units of the slain

American troops were being withheld, pending notification of next of kin, the coalition said in a statement.

The two American deaths are the first combat fatalities in the country in 2020 and bring to three the number of Americans who have died while deployed as part of the U.S. anti-ISIS coalition in Iraq and Syria this year. Spc. Antonio I. Moore, 22, of Wilmington, N.C., died Jan. 24 during a vehicle rollover accident while conducting route clearance operations in Syria's Deir al-Zour province.

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B-2 bombers land in Azores for start of European deployment

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. Air Force B-2 stealth bombers arrived at an air base in the Azores on Monday for the start of a series of operations in Europe, the military said.

"The aircraft will operate out of various military installations in the U.S. European Command's area of responsibility," EUCOM said in statement. "Strategic bomber deployments to Europe provide theater familiarization for aircrew members and demonstrate U.S. commitment to allies

and partners."

The B-2 Spirit bomber task force that arrived at Lajes Field in the Azores — a Portuguese archipelago in the Atlantic, located about 2,200 miles from Washington, D.C. — is from the 509th Bomb Wing and the 131st Bomb Wing, both out of Whiteman Air Base in Missouri.

KC-10 Extenders from the 305th Air Refueling Wing at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey provided aerial refueling support during the B-2s' transit across the Atlantic Ocean, EUCOM said.

A Portuguese base, Lajes is



RICKY BAPTISTA/U.S. Air Force

A U.S. Air Force B-2 Spirit Bomber waits to complete a hot pit refueling mission at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal, in September 2019. A B-2 bomber task force landed March 9 at Lajes Field to mark the start of a series of operations in Europe, the military said.

the only military airfield in the mid-Atlantic and provides a secure location for rest, refueling and maintenance for U.S. and allied aircraft. It is also "strategically located to provide support

in combat operations," EUCOM said.

In August, the Air Force deployed a similar B-2 bomber task force to Europe. Deployments by strategic bombers to Europe

have become more frequent in recent years, amid U.S. and European concerns about Russian aggression.

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Projectiles: Experts say weapons tests likely aimed at showing strength

FROM FRONT PAGE

monitor the situation and are consulting closely with our South Korean and Japanese allies," U.S. Forces Korea said Monday.

The launch occurred a week after military officials said the North fired two short-range ballistic missiles as part of its annual winter training. The communist state also conducted an artillery drill Feb. 28.

Experts said the weapons tests were likely aimed at showing strength after the U.S. and South Korea canceled plans for joint military exercises this month due to fears of the coronavirus.

North Korea's state-run media published photos last week showing the country's leader, Kim Jong Un, observing an artillery drill through binoculars while an officer wearing a mask typically used to protect against the virus stood behind him.

North Korea claims it has not had a confirmed COVID-19 case after imposing stringent measures to control its borders and quarantining thousands of people.

"I think he's putting a good face on things," Thomas Speer, a defense analyst with the Heritage Foundation, said of Kim's renewed military activity. "He's obviously trying to keep attention on the status of the unresolved agreement with the United States."



AHN YOUNG-JOON/AFP

People watch a TV showing a file image of an unspecified North Korea's missile launch during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, on Monday, North Korea fired three unidentified projectiles off its east coast Monday, South Korea's military said. The Korean letters read: "South Korea and U.S. intelligence agency analyze North Korea's projectile."

North Korea conducted 13 missile tests last year after a February 2019 summit between Kim and President Donald Trump collapsed without an agreement in Vietnam.

The North has called on Washington to

offer a reciprocal approach that includes sanctions relief and other rewards for steps already taken. But the Trump administration has insisted on clear signs of de-escalation first.

Expressing frustration with the lack of

progress, Kim lifted a self-imposed moratorium on nuclear and long-range missile tests last year. He also threatened in his New Year's message to unveil a "new strategic weapon" soon.

Trump has expressed little concern about the short-range missile tests, although experts say they show the North is taking advantage of the stalled talks to advance its weapons capabilities.

"No, I have no reaction," Trump said in response to a question about the North's launch last week. He called them short-range missiles.

Despite the saber rattling, Kim sent a personal letter to South Korean President Moon Jae-in last week expressing condolences over the coronavirus crisis.

More than 7,300 South Koreans have been infected with the respiratory virus since an outbreak began in the southeastern city of Daegu in mid-February.

"Chairman Kim said he was worried about President Moon's health and expressed his frustration that there isn't much that he can do to help at this moment," Moon's office said on Thursday, adding that Moon had replied with a thank you.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

In Naples, Navy shuts schools, halts gatherings

BY KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — The Navy is shutting schools, child development centers and base gyms at Naval Support Activity Naples, and canceling "base group activities" starting Tuesday, joining Army and Air Force efforts to fight the spread of the coronavirus in Italy.

In an announcement posted Sunday on the NSA Naples Facebook page, Navy officials said the measures are "being implemented as a precaution to allow us time to conduct a thorough risk assessment and make well-informed decisions about the best way ahead to protect our community."

A sailor based at Capodichino, near Naples International Airport, was the first U.S. service member in Europe to test positive for the virus, officials announced Saturday. The sailor, who has no dependents, is currently staying at home, NSA Naples said.

No personnel at U.S. Army Garrison Italy, based in Vicenza, or at Aviano have tested positive for the virus.

But Vicenza closed its Department of Defense Education Activity schools on Feb. 24 and Aviano followed a day later, in line with local guidelines and directives from the Italian government. Other facilities on the Army and Air Force bases in northern Italy, which has seen the worst of the outbreak in the country, are also closed.

All incoming and outgoing mail to Aviano has been halted, the base post office said Sunday. Mail to Aviano and Vicenza is routed through Milan, capital of the Lombardy region, which as of Sunday had nearly half of Italy's 7,400 confirmed cases of COVID-19.

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A ceremony that was to reunite American and Japanese veterans of the Battle of Iwo Jima on the 75th anniversary of the bloody World War II campaign has been canceled due to concerns over the new coronavirus.

Survivors have made the so-journ to the infamous tear-shaped volcanic island since 1985 for the Reunion of Honor ceremony. The event — held at an obelisk overlooking the invasion beach of what is now referred to as Iwo To

— also draws a host of military and government VIPs as well as members of the III Marine Expeditionary Force on Okinawa.

"Out of an abundance of caution due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the 75th Reunion of Honor event on Iwo Jima which was scheduled to occur 28 March has been canceled," III Marine Expeditionary Force spokeswoman Lt. Col. Kelly Frushour wrote Saturday in a statement to Stars and Stripes. Frushour referred further questions to the Iwo Jima Association of America Inc., which could not be reached for comment after hours Sunday.

It is unclear whether the cer-

emony will be rescheduled.

Japanese officials referred Stars and Stripes to its Ministry of Foreign Affairs for comment, but it did not respond to inquiries on Monday.

The new coronavirus, COVID-19, appeared first in the Chinese city of Wuhan in December and has since spread globally, leading to widespread cancellations of gatherings and events across Asia. The World Health Organization has declared it a global health emergency.

On Feb. 26, U.S. Forces Japan elevated its health protection condition, and urged commanders to

refrain from holding large gatherings such as meetings, formations and training sessions.

The Battle of Iwo Jima began with an amphibious assault by Marines on Feb. 19, 1945, following months of aerial and naval bombardment by the Navy and Army Air Forces. The Japanese had dug deep into the volcanic rock of the island and linked their fighting positions by a labyrinth of tunnels.

Seventy-thousand Marines took part in the 36-day battle, suffering more casualties than the Japanese with more than 6,800 killed and 19,000 wounded. On the Japanese side, approximately

Locations with confirmed COVID-19 cases

As of 12 p.m. EDT March 9



SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

NOGA AMI-RAV/Stars and Stripes

Japan seeks 2 weeks' self-quarantine for all visiting from China, S. Korea

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Japanese immigration officials on Monday began asking those arriving from China and South Korea to self-quarantine for 14 days and avoid public transportation upon arrival in Japan, according to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

The new measures "drastically strengthening" border controls were implemented to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus that causes shortness of breath, coughing and sneezing, a statement from the ministry said.

The self-quarantine request also includes travelers who transited China or South Korea before entering Japan, according to the ministry's website.

Japanese officials also invalidated about 3 million visas Monday — mostly from China but some from South Korea, Hong Kong and Macau — according to the statement and a Kyodo News report Monday. The ban on visas for travelers from those countries will remain in place until at least April 1 but may be renewed.

South Korea is at level 3, which encourages travelers to reconsider going to the country due to the outbreak, according to the State Department. "If suspected to have COVID-19 (coronavirus) in South Korea, you may face travel delays, quarantine, and extreme-

ly expensive medical costs," the State Department travel advisory states.

However, the city of Daegu in South Korea is designated at level 4, the highest advisory level, which bluntly tells would-be visitors "do not travel."

China has been at a level 4 travel advisory since Feb. 2, according to the State Department.

The travel bans have left many SOFA members in Japan with canceled plans to locations across Asia.

Air Force spouse Alexis Thomas of Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo said her upcoming week-long trip to Seoul was canceled when the ban went into place.

"We were really upset because it was supposed to be our first time there," she said. "We love living here because flights around Asia are so cheap or free (with space-available flights)."

Thomas, who has traveled to Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand over the past eight months while living abroad, said her lodging expenses were refunded.

Stars and Stripes reporter Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report. doornbos.caitlin@stripes.com
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Ceremony on Iwo Jima marking battle's 75th anniversary canceled

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A ceremony that was to reunite American and Japanese veterans of the Battle of Iwo Jima on the 75th anniversary of the bloody World War II campaign has been canceled due to concerns over the new coronavirus.

Survivors have made the so-journ to the infamous tear-shaped volcanic island since 1985 for the Reunion of Honor ceremony. The event — held at an obelisk overlooking the invasion beach of what is now referred to as Iwo To

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Seventy-thousand Marines took part in the 36-day battle, suffering more casualties than the Japanese with more than 6,800 killed and 19,000 wounded. On the Japanese side, approximately

18,000 were killed. Only 216 Japanese were captured alive.

Two flag raisings atop the 554-foot Mount Suribachi provided the Americans with a boost when all seemed lost.

The second, which was captured by The Associated Press' Joe Rosenthal in a now iconic photograph, became a symbol of sacrifice and helped rally the people back home to support the war effort.

The island was declared secure on March 16, 1945.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

Some Beijing workers return, stocks and oil prices plunge

BY COLLEEN BARRY
AND LORI HINNANT
Associated Press

SOAVE, Italy — Fear over the coronavirus epidemic Monday sent global stock markets and oil prices plunging, touched off prison riots in Italy and caused a cascading shutdown of sites and events ranging from Saudi schools to Poland's annual Holocaust remembrance march.

While many of Beijing's white-collar workers returned to their jobs as new infections subsided in China, about 16 million people under a widespread lockdown in northern Italy struggled to navigate the new rules of their mass isolation.

"Now that the virus has a footprint in so many countries, the threat of a pandemic has become very real," said World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "The great advantage we have is the decisions we all make as governments, businesses, communities, families and individuals can influence the trajectory of this epidemic."

More than 11,000 people have tested positive for the disease and over 3,800 people with the virus have died, most of them in China. More than 62,000 people have already recovered, but Italy's struggle to halt the virus' spread was emerging as a cautionary tale.

Inmates at more than two dozen Italian prisons rioted against restrictions on family visits and other containment measures, and six died after they broke into the infirmary and overdosed on anti-psychotic medicine.

Travelers at Milan's main train station had to sign police forms self-certifying that they are traveling for "proven needs," situations of necessity, health reasons or to return home. They also needed to provide identity documents, contact numbers and an exact reason for travel from the financial hub.

Both Milan and the popular tourist city of Venice were among the places under the quarantine

lockdown. Across Italy, museums and archaeological sites were closed, weddings were canceled and restaurants were told to keep patrons more than 3 feet apart. The country has counted 7,375 cases of COVID-19, the illness caused by the coronavirus, and 366 deaths, more than any other country outside of Asia.

Pope Francis celebrated Mass alone at the Vatican hotel where he lives, livestreaming the event, but he did resume some meetings.

Trying to send a message of confidence in the economy, French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife walked on Paris' Champs-Elysees avenue, but kept a one-meter security distance from passersby.

"I'm shaking hands using my heart," he said as he waved to people from a distance.

He called for a proportionate government response.

"We cannot shut down the country, but we need to protect the most fragile people," he said.

China's slow re-emergence from weeks of extreme travel restrictions offered a grim sense of the longer-term effects the virus can have on a country's economy.

"Our business is one-fifth of what it was before," said Cheng Sheng, who helps run a stand in Beijing that sells sausages and noodles. "There's less foot traffic. There are no people."

Infections were reported in more than half the world's countries, and flashpoints were erupting around the globe.

"We are working for valuable time, in which scientists can research medicines and a vaccine" and in which governments can help stock up on protective equipment, said German Chancellor Angela Merkel, whose country has reported over 1,100 cases and, as of Monday, its first two deaths.

In Iran, state television said the virus had killed another 43 people, pushing the official toll to 237, with 7,161 confirmed cases. But many fear that the scope of illness is far wider there.

In the United States, where

more than 500 infections have been reported, the Grand Princess cruise ship, which has at least 21 confirmed cases, was expected to dock in Oakland, Calif., amid elaborate protective procedures.

Fleets of buses and planes were ready to whisk the more than 2,000 passengers to military bases or their home countries for a 14-day quarantine.

In Florida, passengers disembarked from the Regal Princess after it received clearance to dock. Two crew members eyed as possible carriers tested negative for the virus.

The Caribbean Princess cruise ship, meanwhile, cut short a Fort Lauderdale-Mexico cruise because crew members had been on another ship where people were infected.

Countries showed a willingness to take tough steps to try to stop the virus' spread.

After earlier closing its land borders, Saudi Arabia cut off air and sea travel to and from Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Italy, Kuwait, Lebanon, South Korea, Syria and the United Arab Emirates. All Saudi schools and universities closed beginning Monday.

Qatar cut off travel to 15 countries and said that it would shut down schools and universities beginning Tuesday.

The Czech Republic banned visits to hospitals and retirement homes, and began random checks on vehicles arriving at border crossings, including taking the temperatures of occupants.

Organizers of the annual Holocaust remembrance march in southern Poland postponed it this year due to coronavirus fears, and soccer authorities said that at least four major matches — in France, Germany and Spain — would take place with no fans.

China reported 40 new cases of the virus, its lowest number since Jan. 20. More than three-quarters of the country's surviving virus patients have been released from treatment. South Korea reported 165 more cases, bringing its total to 7,478.

Friday and the illness was confirmed Saturday afternoon. The installation's leadership was also informed Saturday.

The service member to whom the spouse is married is being tested and both are self-quarantine in their home, according to the social media post.

Base officials are now tracing with whom the spouse and service member interacted to make certain they are notified and checked for symptoms of the coronavirus.

States reporting cases of COVID-19 As of 12 p.m. EDT March 9



SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

NOVA AMERI-STAR/Stars and Stripes

'Several' lawmakers had contact with person with COVID-19

BY DOUGLASS K. DANIEL
AND ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Capitol's attending physician's office said Monday that "several" members of Congress had contact with a person who attended a recent political conference and who subsequently developed COVID-19, the illness caused by the new coronavirus. They "remain in good health," the office said.

In a note to lawmakers, the attending physician's office said that the ill individual had recalled "specific names of people he had contact with during the meeting." Several of these individuals, Members of the Congress, were identified and were contacted on the evening of March 7 by the physician's office, the note said.

Their symptoms were reviewed, and the individuals were considered to be at "low risk" of contracting the disease, the state said. It said that all of the lawmakers the physician's office was monitoring "remain in good health."

On Sunday, two members of Congress, Sen. Ted Cruz and Rep. Paul Gosar, said that they are isolating themselves after determining they had contact with the person at the conference.

Cruz, R-Texas, said Sunday that he had brief contact with the man at the Conservative Political Action Conference nearly two weeks ago and would spend the next few days at his home in Texas until a full 14 days had passed since their interaction.

Gosar, R-Ariz., said that he had made contact with the man

at CPAC and that he and three members of his senior staff were under self-quarantine. His office will be closed for the week, he said in a tweet Sunday.

Besides Cruz and Gosar, the CPAC schedule listed three other senators and 12 House members who were scheduled to speak. They included No. 2 House GOP leader Steve Scalise of Louisiana, No. 3 Republican leader Liz Cheney of Wyoming and congressman Mark Meadows of North Carolina, who has since become the White House chief of staff. Also on the schedule was Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, the wife of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Cheney was told by CPAC that she was not exposed to the convention attendee who has tested positive for the coronavirus, a Cheney spokesman said.

Both President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence spoke at CPAC, but the White House said that there was no indication that either had met or been in "close proximity" to the infected attendee.

Cruz said he met the man being treated for coronavirus 10 days earlier at a conference in Oxon Hill, Md. The Texas Republican said that he's not experiencing any symptoms, feels fine and has been advised by medical authorities that the odds of transmission were extremely low.

Yet Cruz said, out of an abundance of caution he will remain at home. He said medical authorities advised him that those who have interacted with him in the last 10 days should not be concerned about potential transmission.

Spouse of service member based at Joint Base Lewis-McChord tests positive

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A military spouse at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state tested positive Saturday for the coronavirus, the base announced.

The spouse, who lives off base, has not visited the installation in several months, according to a post on the Facebook page for Joint Base Lewis-McChord. The spouse was tested off base,

officially named COVID-19.

Washington state has the largest outbreak of coronavirus in the United States, with 136 confirmed cases and 18 deaths, according to the Washington State Department of Health website. Cases of the virus in the U.S. are now at 566 with 22 deaths, according to the John Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

S. Korean worker at US base tests positive for virus

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A South Korean construction worker who tested positive for the new coronavirus lied about his health to gain access to the U.S. military base where he worked in Daegu, the garrison commander said Monday.

The man, who was a contracted construction worker on Camp Walker, was the eighth confirmed case linked to U.S. Forces Korea, the command said in a press release.

He "is currently in isolation at his off-base residence" as directed by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it said.

An investigation showed that the man became sick a week ago but continued coming on base, evading strict health checks including a questionnaire and temperature checks at access gates, the garrison commander said.

"He was not answering the questions truthfully, and he had even been tested for COVID and still came on post that day," Col. Edward Ballanco said in a Facebook live update for the community. "It's reprehensible and he will never be coming on post again."

The details underscore the challenges facing the U.S. military as it struggles to keep the virus off bases across the divided peninsula.

A South Korean woman who tested positive on Friday also had gone to work at her office on Camp Humphreys the day before, officials there said, acknowledging that a mandatory temperature check had not detected a fever.

USFK, which commands some 28,500 service members, has tightened restrictions further in response to the latest cases.

Mandatory ID checks have been reimposed at the entrances to post exchanges, commissaries and other facilities to ensure only authorized purchasers can enter.

Army Garrison Daegu already faced the strictest regime as it sits at the epicenter of the outbreak. Restaurants are open for

takeout only.

Ballanco said gate checks will be intensified and commercial facilities on base will receive a daily disinfectant cleaning.

The latest patient only made one visit outside of his construction site — to discuss an inspection code issue at the fire department, Ballanco said, citing the trace investigation.

The firefighter, he spoke to along with his colleagues at the construction site have been self-isolated at home, he said.

Most of the confirmed USFK cases, including an American soldier and his wife, were in the southeastern city of Daegu or surrounding areas that are at the center of the outbreak. South Korea has confirmed more than 7,400 infections nationwide, with 51 deaths.

The other USFK personnel infected included the widow of a retired soldier, the dependent of an active-duty service member, the dependent of a Defense Department civilian employee and another South Korean employee.

USFK said the risk level for military personnel remains "high" and it is "implementing all appropriate control measures to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 as a prudent measure to protect the force."

Bloomberg reported Sunday that the outbreak in South Korea is showing signs of slowing as the rate of new daily infections falls and health authorities almost finished testing members of a religious sect at the center of the epidemic, the country's health minister said.

With the number of new cases slowing to 367 from 483 the day before, Health Minister Park Neung-hoo said late Sunday the virus spread — once the biggest globally outside of China — appeared to be "little bit stagnant." The country was at an early stage of stabilizing the outbreak in the city of Daegu and North Gyeongsang province, where the majority of new cases have been reported.

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AHN YOUNG-JOON/AP

Check-in counters of Japanese airlines are empty at the Gimpo Airport in Seoul, South Korea, on Monday. Many large companies are restricting non-essential travel, resulting in a blow to travel and tourism industries.

Virus: Pullback in air travel leads to cancellation of high-profile conferences

FROM FRONT PAGE

and the 19 European countries that share the euro currency are in danger of recession. Italy may already be there.

Capital Economics expects the Chinese economy to shrink 2% in the January-March quarter and to grow as little as 2% for the year. That would be a disastrous and humiliating comedown for an economy that delivered a sizzling 9% average annual growth rate from 2000 through last year.

The bleak outlook and nagging uncertainties about how severe the damage will be have shaken financial markets. The Dow Jones industrial average gyrated wildly from day to day, has plummeted nearly 12% over the past month.

Including Monday's drop, the S&P 500 has now lost 16.5% since setting a record last month. If it hits a 20% drop, it would mean the death of what's become the longest-running bull market for U.S. stocks in history. Monday actually marks the 11th anniversary of the market hitting bottom after the 2008 financial crisis.

The circuit breaker tripped in the U.S. stock market is meant to slow things down and give investors a chance to breathe before trading more.

The price of oil sank nearly 20% after Russia refused to roll back production in response to falling prices and Saudi Arabia signaled that it will ramp up its output.

While low oil prices can eventually translate into cheaper gasoline, they are wreaking havoc on already struggling energy companies and countries that depend on oil, including the No. 1 producer, the U.S.

"The virus is going to go on, and it's going to impact a lot of countries and economies," said Sondra Mansfield, who owns Chalk of the Town in New York City, which makes T-shirts and tote bags that children can write on with chalk.

With global supply chains disrupted by quarantines and travel restrictions, Mansfield worries about maintaining access to the supplies she needs — T-shirts from India and Honduras and markers from Japan.

"I think it will get worse before it gets better," she said.

When COVID-19 emerged in China a few weeks ago, many economists envisioned something like what happened when SARS hit China and Hong Kong in 2003: A short-lived interruption of Chinese economic growth, one that left the global economy largely unscathed.

Yet the new virus has spread far faster and more widely than expected. Between November 2002 and early August 2003, SARS infected 7,400 people in 32 countries and territories and killed 916. By contrast, COVID-19 has infected more than 100,000 people and killed more than 3,400 in 90 countries. And the toll is growing.

"This is not a China issue anymore," said Jacob Kirkegaard, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

Business travel in the U.S. has slowed sharply in the face of the outbreak. Numerous large companies, including Amazon and Google, are restricting non-essential travel. The result is a dire financial blow for the travel and tourism industries — from airlines and hotels and restaurants to cruise ship companies and conference centers.

The pullback in air travel has led to the cancellations of high-profile conferences, from the Geneva auto show to a global health conference in Orlando, Fla., to South by Southwest, the annual festival of music, film and technology in Austin, Texas. Those cancellations, in turn, are dealing financial setbacks to the cities that normally host them and count on the financial windfalls they bring.

Amusement parks are being hurt by the sudden reluctance of people to travel and mingle with crowds. Disney's Shanghai Disneyland and Hong Kong Disneyland remain closed. Other theme park companies, like Six Flags and SeaWorld Entertainment, will likely suffer, too.

The virus and the measures meant to contain it have choked the supply chains that companies around the world had come to rely on. Chinese authorities locked down Wuhan, the industrial hub at the center of the outbreak, as well as surrounding cities. Stranded by travel restrictions, millions of migrant factory workers who had returned to their home villages for the Lunar New Year couldn't get back to work.

Executives of Salus Brands, a company in Tempe, Ariz., that sells swimming-pool floats and bottles of slime, fear that deliveries from its Chinese factories won't arrive in time for summer vacation.

"If we can't get product in stores by Memorial Day week or shortly after, we lose our season," said Dave Balkaran, the company president.

"Sadly, it's the small and medium-sized enterprise that will get hurt the most and the soonest," said Andrew Shoyer, a former U.S. trade official who is a partner at the law firm Sidley Austin. Larger companies, he noted, are more likely to have other supplies to draw upon if some factories are disrupted.

'He was not answering the questions truthfully, and he had even been tested for COVID and still came on post that day. It's reprehensible and he will never be coming on post again.'

Col. Edward Ballanco
Facebook post

WAR ON TERRORISM



PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN/Stars and Stripes

Then-Afghanistan Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, left, watches President Ashraf Ghani, right, deliver a speech in Kabul on Feb. 29. Both men have claimed victory in last year's presidential election and held rival swearing-in ceremonies in Kabul on Monday.

Blasts target Ghani ceremony; rival 'sworn in'

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Rocket blasts briefly interrupted the swearing-in ceremony Monday of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, which took place as his chief rival in last year's election for the country's highest office held his own inauguration nearby.

At least five rockets were shot in the direction of the presidential palace shortly after Ghani took the oath of office before a crowd of hundreds including U.S. diplomat Zalmay Khalilzad, who led peace talks with the Taliban, and the top American commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Scott Miller.

The blasts, which were heard several miles away, sent some people at the ceremony running for cover, but Ghani appeared unimimidated and, minutes later, picked up his acceptance speech where he'd left off — talking about pine nuts and the economy.

"We have seen big attacks," Ghani said. "A couple of explosions shouldn't scare us."

Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the rocket attacks.

Kabul police reported there were no serious injuries from the attacks.

As he was sworn in, Ghani's chief rival in last year's election, former Chief Executive of Afghanistan Abdullah Abdullah, held his own inauguration.

Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission last month declared Ghani the winner of September's presidential poll, but Abdullah said the election had been marred by irregularities and rejected the result.

The feud between the two men over who won the election could delay the next step in the peace process — the start of talks between the government and the Taliban to chart the way forward for Afghanistan after more than 18 years of war. The Feb. 29 peace deal signed by the Americans and

the Taliban stipulates that those talks should begin Tuesday.

Addressing the crowd gathered on the grounds of the presidential palace for his inauguration, Ghani said negotiations to firm up details of the intra-Afghan talks would be concluded by Tuesday. He did not indicate when the talks would begin or where they would take place.

An announcement on a prisoner release, which was also a key part of the U.S.-Taliban deal, will be made later this week, he said. The Taliban have insisted that thousands of their fighters be released from government prisons before direct negotiations with the government can begin.

As Ghani called for unity among Afghans, his presidential rival Abdullah had a similar message for his supporters, urging them to stop shouting death chants against Ghani.

Monday's simultaneous swearing-in ceremonies were yet another reminder that a stable democracy has not taken shape in Afghanistan, despite nearly two decades of U.S.-led reconstruction efforts in the country, where American troops have been embroiled in their longest war.

If the intra-Afghan talks happen and the Taliban fulfill other commitments outlined in the deal with the U.S. — such as halting attacks on foreign forces and preventing terrorists from using Afghanistan as a base for operations — American and international troops could fully withdraw from Afghanistan in a little over a year.

This is the third presidential result that Abdullah has contested. After the previous election in 2014, then-U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry helped broker a deal, which created the position of chief executive for Abdullah and named Ghani president.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.
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Official: US starting its troop withdrawal from Afghanistan

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — American troops have begun leaving Afghanistan for the initial troop withdrawal required in the U.S.-Taliban peace agreement, a U.S. official said on Monday, amid political chaos in Kabul that threatens the deal.

Hundreds of troops are heading out of the country as previously planned, but they will not be replaced as the U.S. moves ahead with plans to cut the number of forces in the country from about 13,000 to 8,600, the official said.

The official spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity to discuss

the movement ahead of a public announcement.

The pullout comes as Afghanistan's rival leaders were each sworn in as president in separate ceremonies on Monday, creating a complication for the United States as it figures out how to move forward on the deal and end the 18-year war.

The sharpening dispute between President Ashraf Ghani, who was declared the winner of last September's election, and his rival Abdullah Abdullah, who charged fraud in the vote along with the elections complaints commission, threatens to wreck the next key steps and even risks devolving into new violence.

The U.S. has not tied the with-

drawal to political stability in Afghanistan or any specific outcome from the all-Afghan peace talks. Instead, it depends on the Taliban meeting their commitment to prevent "any group or individual, including al-Qaida, from using the soil of Afghanistan to threaten the security of the United States and its allies."

Under the peace agreement, the U.S. troop withdrawal had to begin within 10 days after the deal was signed on Feb. 29. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said March 2 that he had already approved the start of the withdrawal, which would then be coordinated by military commanders in Afghanistan.



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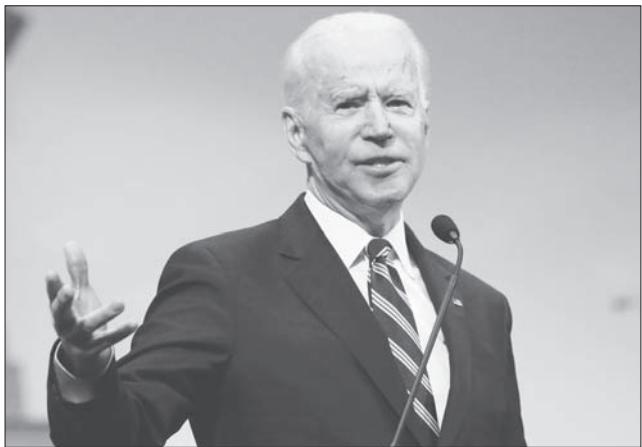
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NATION



ROGELIO V. SOLIS/AP

Democratic presidential candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden speaks at New Hope Baptist Church on Sunday in Jackson, Miss.

Dems look to Michigan primary as testing ground for November

BY WILL WEISSERT
AND KAT STAFFORD
Associated Press

Detroit — Ask Arlene Williams about President Donald Trump's promises to bring back auto industry jobs that have evaporated across Michigan and she'll point with irony to the Chevy Blazer.

General Motors is now remaking the iconic American SUV after a lengthy hiatus — but building parts of it in Mexico and elsewhere overseas.

"These are some of the staple brands and yes, they're back," said Williams, 49, who works at a GM plant in Romulus, Mich., southwest of Detroit. "They're just not being made in the U.S."

The largest of six states voting Tuesday, Michigan could redefine a Democratic primary that has become a showdown between former Vice President Joe Biden and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sand-

ers. But many voters are already looking ahead to November and whether Trump can again win in the state that perhaps, can move any other, catapulted him into the White House in 2016.

For Sanders, the stakes could hardly be higher. He defeated Hillary Clinton in Michigan in 2016, emboldening his argument that he could win with a diverse coalition that drew well

from young voters, working-class whites and African Americans.

But it is the kind of victory he

has not been able to replicate this time, and if he does not on Tuesday, any chances at the Democratic nomination may be greatly diminished.

Biden has been emphasizing the Obama administration's bailout of the auto industry, which provided an economic lifeline for GM and Chrysler and federal loans for Ford, likely saving thousands of jobs. He is also counting on continued strong support

among African American voters. How Michigan voters will also

clarify for November. Some see Sanders' sweeping promises to cancel student debt and provide health care for all potentially

energizing young voters, but not older ones wary of his democratic socialist ideology.

Centrist and safe, Biden could do exactly the opposite, though.

Others worry that both candidates are taking black Democrats for granted. All that may add up to neither being able to carry the state against Trump.

"There's not a lot of energy, not enough energy, I would say, even for the primary," said Michigan state Rep. Sherry Gay-Dagnogo, whose district includes a large swath of northwest Detroit.

She said that the Democratic Party continues to use the same playbook of waiting until the last minute to do intensive community outreach — which crippled it in 2016.

for the party's nomination to face President Donald Trump in November.

"I will support the nominee of the Democratic Party," Clinton said when asked whether she would campaign for Sanders. Pressed again, she suggested that the decision is up to Sanders.

"I don't know if he would ask me to campaign for him, Fareed, because I have no idea what he is thinking about for a general election campaign," Clinton said. "As I've said many times, I do not think he's our strongest nominee against Donald Trump."

Clinton and Sanders fought a bitter race for the Democratic presidential nomination four years ago, and the rift between both candidates — and their supporters — was front and center in the final months of the campaign.

Sanders waited over a month to endorse Clinton after losing the nomination to her, and even then, his reluctance to fully embrace her candidacy was evident on the campaign trail that fall.

By contrast, Clinton and Biden worked together in the Obama administration. The then-vice

Jury in leaks case deadlocked on most serious charges

BY SHAYNA JACOBS
AND SHANE HARRIS
The Washington Post

NEW YORK — A jury in New York failed to reach a verdict Monday on whether a former CIA employee gave a huge cache of hacking tools to WikiLeaks, in what officials had called the biggest leak of classified information in the history of the intelligence agency.

Jurors, who had begun their deliberations last week, told Judge Paul Crotty that they were "extremely deadlocked" on many of the charges.

Joshua Schulte, 31, had been accused of disclosing the hacking tools and also disclosing information to a reporter at The Washington Post while he was in jail awaiting trial.

The jury did find Schulte guilty on two counts of making false statements to investigators and contempt of court. But the failure to reach a unanimous agreement on the most serious charges of disclosing classified information was a significant blow to the government's case.

In a trial that lasted more than a month, prosecutors portrayed ex-CIA officer Schulte as a disgruntled employee bent on vengeance after his bosses failed to take his side in a dispute with a CIA colleague.

The verdict came three years after WikiLeaks posted thousands of files revealing secret hacking tools that the CIA used to penetrate cellphones, televisions and other ordinary electronic devices.

The hacking library, which the organization dubbed Vault 7, alerted United States adversaries to how the CIA spied and could enable them to turn the hacking tools back on the U.S., prosecutors argued at trial.

The leak drew comparisons to an earlier disclosure by National

Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden.

But officials have said that Schulte's actions caused even more damage to secret intelligence operations.

Whereas Snowden mostly revealed details about NSA programs and capabilities, Schulte disclosed how the CIA actually conducts cyber espionage, information that was both more revealing and potentially more dangerous to have in the open, current and former intelligence officials have said.

"These leaks were devastating to national security," assistant U.S. attorney Matthew Laroche told jurors during his closing argument on Monday. "The CIA's cyber tools were gone in an instant. Intelligence gathering operations around the world stopped immediately."

But Schulte's defense attorneys argued that the government never knew with certainty that Schulte was the individual who gave the hacking tools to WikiLeaks.

They pointed out that other CIA employees had access to the network from which the hacking tools were allegedly stolen. Schulte's team also claimed that the CIA's computer security was weak.

"The bottom line is this ... because the system was insecure, because the system was poorly monitored, the government cannot know, and it certainly cannot prove to you which of the many people with access to this information committed this crime, when they committed it or how they did it," Sabrina Shroff, Schulte's lead defense attorney, said in her closing argument to jurors on Monday.

Shroff had argued that the CIA was embarrassed because officials didn't realize that the hacking tools had been stolen until they appeared on WikiLeaks.

Hillary Clinton would endorse Sanders, unsure about campaigning

BY FELICIA SONMEZ
The Washington Post

Former secretary of state Hillary Clinton said that she will support Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., if he wins the Democratic presidential nomination, but she did not commit to campaigning on his behalf.

Clinton weighed in on the 2020 Democratic race in an interview with CNN's Fareed Zakaria that aired Sunday. Her comments come amid an increasingly tense race between Sanders and former vice president Joe Biden

president endorsed Clinton for president in June 2016, more than a month before Sanders did, although Biden also had praise for some of Sanders' policy positions.

In the CNN interview, Clinton nodded to the 2016 tensions between her campaign and Sanders' and said that she hopes the same dynamic doesn't play out between the Sanders and Biden camps this time around should Biden win the nomination.

Clinton also said on CNN that Biden showed with his strong Super Tuesday performance that he is "building the kind of

coalition that I had, basically," although she stopped short of endorsing him.

"You looked at those numbers — people are turning out, and they're turning out to try to pick the person they think would be the best president, but also the person as our nominee who would most likely be able to beat Trump," she said. "And clearly, the Trump campaign and Trump himself know who they don't want to run against and know who they do want to run against."

NATION



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

People leave a worship service at Mount Bethel Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday in Nashville, Tenn. The congregation held their service in a tent in the parking lot near the church facilities, which were heavily damaged by a tornado March 3.

Tenn. congregation worships in rubble after church ruined by deadly tornado

BY KRISTIN M. HALL
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Bobbie Harris, 79, lost her rental home, her job and her church when a deadly tornado struck her community in North Nashville. But all she could think about was her blessings.

"Through it all, God is good," Harris said.

Harris joined other members of Mount Bethel Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday to worship just outside the ruins of the church, which had been in the community for 135 years. The roofs of their two church buildings are gone, ripped away by strong winds early Tuesday.

The church pitched a tent in the parking lot and the congregants gathered to sing, pray and hold hands in what the church called "worship in the rubble." Even contractors who were busily trying to replace downed power lines paused and took off their hard hats as Pastor Jacques Boyd led the congregation in prayer on the sunny, windy morning.

The National Weather Service has said at least six tornadoes hit middle Tennessee during last week's storms that killed 24 people and caused massive damage in parts of Middle Tennessee.

Harris lived only blocks away from the church, where she also worked as a cook. When the tornado hit her home, the powerful winds grabbed her air conditioning unit and flung it into a fence across the street. Her granddaughter's car was destroyed.

Boyd told his congregation that the storm was a challenge from God and had brought everyone

closer together in the recovery efforts. Behind him, bits of insulation blew around in the breeze and the wooden beams that once held up the roof of the chapel were exposed. Many of the neighboring homes were still without power Sunday and blue tarps covered roofs nearby. But under the white tent, there were smiles on people's faces as they greeted each other, danced to the music and sang hymns.

"Nashville is now primed to show the world what we're made of," said Boyd, in blue suit, as people responded "Amen."

The church, with a congregation of about 300 people, held before- and after-school care for children, had a gymnasium where kids from the neighborhood could go, put on summer camps for children and provided computer literacy classes for its older congregants.

"We must trust in the savior who does not deliver us from storms, but through storms," he told the clapping congregation.

Boyd said the church will continue to hold its services inside the tent. In the meantime, they are hoping other institutions will help the church continue to provide their community services.

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee and his wife, Maria, sat in the front row of the folding chairs, shook hands with the church members and bowed their heads in prayer.

"There was a lot of hope here," Lee said. "God uses people like this in this environment to bring hope to this community, and it was great to see."

NASA seeks astronauts for 2024 moon trip

The Washington Post

For the first time in four years, NASA is hiring new astronauts.

The job application opened last week for the "Artemis generation" of space explorers. The Artemis program's goal is to return to the moon by 2024 — and land the first woman on it. As the job description notes, "Extensive travel required."

The competition is sure to be fierce. The last time NASA sought

astronauts, 18,300 people applied for 14 slots.

This time, the requirements are a bit stricter.

You must be a U.S. citizen and have a bachelor's degree in science, math or engineering. Plus, NASA is looking for a master's degree (in physical; computer or biological sciences; engineering; or math) or at least a few years of PhD work in one of those fields; if you're a medical doctor, that works, too; or if you're en-

rolled or a graduate of a test pilot program.

Applicants who make it through this process enroll in a two-year evaluation program. Graduation from astronaut boot camp requires the completion of "spacecraft systems training, Extravehicular Activity (EVA) skills training, robotics skills training, Russian language training, aircraft flight readiness training" and more, NASA says.

Va. reshaped as Dems put historic stamp on laws

BY ALAN SUDERMAN
AND SARAH RANKIN
Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Democratic legislators in Virginia have dramatically reshaped the state in two months, sweeping aside many of the state's old business-friendly and socially conservative laws and replacing them with a broad, progressive policy agenda.

Lawmakers wrapped up this year's session Sunday — apart from passing the state budget — after advancing the South's strictest gun laws, broadest LGBTQ protections and some of its loosest abortion restrictions. Democrats had not had full control of the legislature for more than two decades, and their years of pent-up frustrations yielded one of the most consequential sessions in Virginia's history.

"In November, voters called for swift, impactful action to make their communities safer and more prosperous. We have delivered," House Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn said.

But many Republicans said Democrats had advanced a liberal agenda beyond what the average voter supports while trampling on Virginia's pro-business reputation.

"I think it's been a fairly devastating year for people that are in rural Virginia," said Sen. Steve Newman, a Republican who has served in the legislature since the early 1990s. "It's not just the high-profile items, but it's just how deep the far left has reached into the code of Virginia."

An astonishingly large list of topics were covered, with high-profile legislation advancing to Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam's desk almost daily. Marijuana was decriminalized, insulin prices capped, and voter

ID requirements repealed.

One immediate priority of Democrats, making Virginia the critical 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, was quickly dispatched in January to the delight of women's rights advocates, some of whom had worked on the issue for decades.

Virginia briefly became the epicenter of the nation's gun debate, as tens of thousands of gun owners from around the country took over Capitol Square in January to protest Northam's aggressive gun-control push.

The Senate won out in several fights, insisting on more moderate versions of high-profile legislation. A plan to hike the minimum wage to \$15 an hour is more gradual and has broader exemptions than what the House wanted, and a public sector collective bargaining measure is far more limited than what the House initially passed.

The Senate also watered down almost all of Northam's package of gun-control laws and outright rejected his proposed ban on the sale of assault weapons.

A fight over redistricting reform was particularly caustic in the House. Democratic caucus Black lawmakers pleaded unsuccessfully with their colleagues not to support a proposed constitutional amendment to create a bipartisan redistricting commission, saying it could hurt minority influence in drawing future legislative and Congressional lines.

Lawmakers delayed action on passing a \$135 billion two-year state budget in large part over a fight about whether to fund a college tuition freeze. They planned to pass a final budget on Thursday and then return in April to take up the governor's proposed amendments and vetoes.

Cleveland police: 1 killed, 17 wounded in party shooting

Associated Press

various hospitals.

CLEVELAND — At least one person was killed and 17 people were injured when gunfire erupted late Saturday following a fight at a party in Cleveland attended by multiple motorcycle clubs, police said.

A 48-year-old man was found dead with multiple gunshot wounds when Cleveland police officers responded to an address in a neighborhood on the city's east side. Police said many other victims left the scene in private vehicles and began to arrive at

A total of 18 people, including male and female victims, were shot and treated at various hospitals, authorities said. Injuries range from minor to serious, though police didn't immediately provide details about the victims or the extent of their injuries.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman sentenced for driving with man on hood

ND BISMARCK — A judge sentenced a Bismarck woman to probation after she drove her car for several blocks with a man clinging to the hood.

The Bismarck Tribune reported that Brittany Miller, 25, was arrested after the incident was reported to police. She told officers that the man jumped on her hood and wouldn't get off so she drove eight blocks in hopes of shaking him loose.

The man's father told police Miller drove the car into him and his son jumped onto the hood to avoid being hit.

It's unclear if Miller knew the man or what led up to the incident.

Wallets stolen from Make-A-Wish patrons

FL ORLANDO — A World guest stole wallets from the stroller of two Make-A-Wish Foundation visitors and used their cards to buy Apple watches, the Orange County Sheriff's Office said.

Kristy Henry, 37, was arrested on several charges, including grand theft over \$750 and obtaining goods with stolen credit card.

Authorities said the two guests from Make-A-Wish Foundation were watching a show at SeaWorld and left their purses in a stroller outside the stadium.

The Orlando Sentinel reported both victims spotted charges of over \$400 on their debit cards at Walmart and 7-Eleven.

\$37M bakery with 400 workers planned

GA ATLANTA — The owners of a California-based food company plan to open a \$37 million bakery in Georgia.

Gov. Brian Kemp's office announced that Sugar Bowl Bakery's metro Atlanta operation will be the company's first on the East Coast.

The new bakery in Tucker is expected to employ about 400 workers over the next five years, the governor's office said in a news release. Workers will be hired for positions in bakery management, production, quality assurance, maintenance, warehousing and sanitation.

Man charged for tracking ex-girlfriend with GPS

WI LA CROSSE — Prosecutors have accused a West Salem man of using a GPS device to track his ex-girlfriend.

The La Crosse Tribune reported that Matthew Robinson, 41, was charged with stalking, misuse of a GPS device, criminal damage to property and disorderly conduct.

According to court documents, the ex-girlfriend called police after Robinson started messaging her about her vehicle's location and showed up at her friend's house in Blair when he shouldn't have known where she was. The woman searched her vehicle and found a GPS unit in the spare tire.



CHRIS DORST, CHARLESTON (W.Va.) GAZETTE-MAIL/AP

The tussled look

Joel Mitchell, 3, of Charleston, W.Va., reaches through the pen to pet the shaggy hair of "Baby," one of three Highland cattle exhibited in front of the Kanawha County Public Library in Charleston, W.Va., as part of the annual Celtic Calling event. Owner Houston Arbuckle brought them from his 70-acre Edgewood Stock Farm in Greenbrier County.

compartment.

Stabbing of customer deemed self-defense

MO ST. LOUIS — Prosecutors said a St. Louis Pizza Hut worker acted in self-defense when he stabbed a customer who had threatened him with a knife during a confrontation about an order.

St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office spokeswoman Allison Hawk told The Associated Press the customer showed up at the restaurant angry and ready to fight. Hawk said the man got the workers to go outside, where he drew a knife and told them he had a gun.

Hawk said one of the workers then stabbed the customer several times with a kitchen knife. Police said that the man is expected to survive.

Police referred first-degree assault charges to the prosecutor's office for review. But Hawk said prosecutors determined that the stabbing was a case of self-defense and decided not to file charges.

Squeegee worker breaks window and hits woman

MD BALTIMORE — A woman in Baltimore was knocked to the ground by a squeegee worker on a scooter when she got out of her vehicle after he broke the rear window, according to a police report.

The woman told police the

THE CENSUS

1,600

The approximate number of suggestions Skowhegan, Maine, school officials received for a new mascot nickname. The list has been whittled down to 305. School officials voted to retire the "Indians" mascot. Students in grades six through 12 will be asked to provide feed-

back once two committees, the Support Services Committee and the Education Policy and Programming Committee, come up with five final suggestions. After that, the two committees will make final recommendations to the School Board,

which will then vote on the finalists.

broke the window when she attempted to drive away after being approached by a group cleaning windshields. The police report shows she got out of her minivan to take photographs of the group, but the suspect got on a scooter, ran into her and knocked her to the ground.

Police used the city's surveillance cameras to confirm the suspect shattered the rear window using his squeegee and then hit the woman with the scooter.

She was taken to a hospital with a scrape and large contusion on her left leg.

Students suspended after mock lynching

GA ATLANTA — Some students at an Atlanta private school have been suspended indefinitely after a video surfaced showing them conducting an apparent mock lynching of another student with toilet paper in a school bathroom, officials said.

Several boys at Cristo Rey At-

lanta Jesuit High School were seen on video wrapping toilet paper around their heads and cutting holes for their eyes, news outlets reported. Some were also seen wrapping what appears to be a toilet paper noose around another boy's neck as he appears to pull up on a bathroom stall support beam as if being hanged.

Officials at the college preparatory school said the act was reprehensible and wouldn't be tolerated. They also said the students were suspended indefinitely while the school investigates.

Ferry company seeks to sink old vessel in lake

VT BURLINGTON — A ferry company that transports passengers and vehicles across Lake Champlain between Vermont and New York wants to see a century-old vessel turned into an underwater diving destination just off the Burlington waterfront.

The Lake Champlain Trans-

portation Company is hoping to

donate the now-retired ferry "Ad-

irondack," constructed in 1913,

to the state of Vermont so it could

become the latest addition to an

underwater historic preserve.

Ferry company Operations Manager Heather Stewart called sinking the vessel that has carried passengers across Lake Champlain since 1954 "bittersweet," but it's better than the most practical alternative, selling it for scrap.

"We are saying goodbye. All of us here, the thought of her getting scrapped is an unpleasant thought," she said. "But to preserve her and for her to be part of the marine preserve would be great."

Paraglider lands in freezing rural pond

WI MADISON — Authorities in southern Wisconsin are trying to figure out why a paraglider landed in a freezing rural pond.

The Dane County Sheriff's Office said the pilot inadvertently landed in the Town of Oregon pond and sank into the icy water. He managed to free himself from the aircraft but couldn't reach shore.

A local resident called 911. Sheriff's deputies and Oregon police officers responded along with firefighters from Brooklyn, Oregon and Madison. The firefighters saved the pilot by wading out into the water in rescue suits. The pilot was treated on the shore for non-life threatening injuries.

From wire reports

FACES

Fighting back



VICTORIA WILL, INVISION/AP

Megan Thee Stallion worked hard to record her latest album, 'Suga.' Then she had to work even harder to get her label to release it.

By MESFIN FEKADU
Associated Press

Megan Thee Stallion says she works extremely hard in the studio writing music, and so became more than a little worried when she almost couldn't release her new album because of a dispute with her record label.

"I was super nervous," she said in an interview with The Associated Press after a Houston judge ordered the March 6 release of her album as her bitter court battle with her label continues.

"I'm super passionate about music. I love the fact that music is what connects me to my homes (what her fans call themselves), so not being able to put out music, that would hurt my relationship with my listeners," she continued. "I'm like, 'Oh thank you Lord' when I found out I could drop new music."

The 25-year-old released the nine-track album, "Suga," on March 6. It comes after the release of the projects "Fever" and "Tina Snow" that helped establish Stallion's name in hip-hop, and even on the pop charts. Last year she made the 2019 TIME 100 Next List, was named one of the AP's Breakthrough Entertainers of the Year, won prizes at the MTV Video Music Awards and BET Hip-Hop Awards, and was honored by Variety and Billboard magazines.

But not everything has been going smoothly.

The performer posted on social media that she and her management team at Jay-Z's Roc Nation company tried to renegotiate a bad contract she signed years ago with Houston-based record label 1501 Certified Entertainment. It's become a battle marked by rancorous social media ex-

changes that Stallion and her associates regarded as threatening and intimidating.

Stallion accused the label of not sharing data on her music sales with her management. She said that when they sought to renegotiate terms of her record contract as a result, the threats and attempts at intimidation increased.

Representatives for 1501 didn't immediately reply to an email from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Stallion got a small win in court March 2 when State District Judge Robert Schaffer issued the initial temporary restraining order that barred 1501 from withholding release of her music on schedule. State District Judge Beau Miller reaffirmed the order March 4 while denying 1501's appeal, and a March 13 hearing has been scheduled for her request for a temporary injunction against the label.

Stallion said she's happy she decided to sign with Roc Nation to help manage her growing career.

"Roc Nation is awesome. Even before I had officially signed with them, they started helping me with stuff," Stallion said, noting that they helped her enroll into school swiftly. "They took some of the load off of what I had going on in my everyday life. I was like, 'Yeah, this is the place I want to be.'"

Stallion's hits include "Hot Girl Summer," "Big Ole Freak" and "Cash (Expletive)." She said her advice to up-and-coming artists is to read the contracts you sign carefully.

"You read them. Have your people read them. Have your lawyer read them. Have everybody that know what they are talking about read them," she said.

film and TV productions, remaining active well into his 80s. He received two Academy Award nominations — for best actor in 1988 for his gripping portrayal of an impoverished farmer in "Pelle the Conqueror," and best supporting actor in 2012 for his role as a mute in "Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close." More recently, he received an Emmy nomination for his work as the Three-Eyed Raven in HBO's "Game of Thrones."

Von Sydow, who played priest in 'The Exorcist,' dies

Associated Press

Max von Sydow, the self-described "shy boy"-turned-actor known to art house audiences through his work with Swedish director Ingmar Bergman and later to moviegoers everywhere when he played the priest in the horror classic "The Exorcist," died Sunday. He was 90.

From his 1949 screen debut in the Swedish film "Only a Mother," von Sydow starred in close to 200

'Onward' tops box office as audiences show no fear

Associated Press

North American audiences are not staying away from theaters amid virus concerns, according to the weekend's box office numbers. Disney and Pixar's "Onward" topped the charts as expected, and the Ben Affleck basketball drama "The Way Back" also opened normally.

"Onward" earned \$40 million from 4,310 North American locations, according to studio estimates on Sunday. It's on the lower end of openings for the studio, more in line with "The Good Dinosaur's" launch in 2015. "Onward" is an original story about two teenage elf brothers voiced by Chris Pratt and Tom Holland who get a chance to spend one last day with their late father.

"I think it's a solid start for an original animated film," said Cathleen Taff, Disney's president of distribution. "We're especially excited about the fact that we've seen such good word of mouth."

The studio expects it to continue performing well with spring breaks starting for many students and families next week.

Internationally, "Onward" picked up \$28 million.

"The Invisible Man" dropped to second place in week two with \$15.2 million, bringing its domestic total to \$52.7 million. Worldwide, it's just shy of \$100 million.

In third place, "The Way Back" opened in line with projections with an estimated \$8.5 million. The R-rated drama cost around \$21 million to produce.

Affleck's performance was well-received by critics, and the star has been unusually candid about his own real-life struggles with alcoholism in the press in the weeks leading up to release.

Winfrey reversed other book club selection

Oprah Winfrey reversed her book club selection of Kate Elizabeth Russell's upcoming "My Dark Vanessa" after the novel was briefly the subject of online controversy, a spokeswoman confirmed March 5.

"Ultimately we did not end up moving forward with it as a book club selection," a spokeswoman for Winfrey said. "My Dark Vanessa" comes out today.

Winfrey's dropping of the novel followed her highly controversial

choice of Jeanine Cummins' "My American Dirt," the bestseller about Mexicans fleeing to the U.S. border that has been criticized for perpetuating stereotypes. The novel has intensified an ongoing debate over the lack of Latino representation in the publishing industry.

Winfrey told the AP last month that she did not want to "wade" again into controversies that took away attention from the books themselves.

Russell's novel, like "American Dirt," was one of the most anticipated books of 2020. But in January, author Wendy Orthi alleged that Russell's story of a teenager's relationship with her high school English teacher had been lifted from her memoir "Excavation." Reviewers who looked at both books saw no evidence of plagiarism, and Russell has since said the novel was based in part on her own life.

Other news

■ Grammy-winning singer Ciara is the latest musician to postpone a concert because of the rapidly spreading coronavirus. Ciara, who is pregnant, was set to perform in Texas at the grand opening of the new Fort Hood USO on March 19 but announced March 7 that the event is being postponed. The grand opening will now take place in the summer and the concert will be rescheduled for later this year.

■ The American Film Institute says it is postponing its 48th annual AFI Life Achievement Award Gala Tribute honoring Julie Andrews, originally scheduled for April 25 in Los Angeles, in an apparent response to the new coronavirus outbreak. It will be rescheduled for early summer.

■ McCoy Tyner, a groundbreaking and influential jazz pianist and the last surviving member of the John Coltrane Quartet, died last week, his family confirmed. He was 81. Tyner joined Coltrane for the 1961 album "My Favorite Things," a major commercial success. The album was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1998. Tyner eventually found success apart from the John Coltrane Quartet, releasing more than 70 albums. He also won five Grammy Awards.



Von Sydow, in 2012

The Swede was a mainstay of nearly a dozen films by Bergman, including "Wild Strawberries," "Shame" and the 1957 release "The Seventh Seal," in which he featured in one of Bergman's most memorable scenes, as the medieval knight who plays a game of chess against the grim reaper.

Von Sydow made his Hollywood debut as Jesus in the 1965 film "The Greatest Story Ever Told," but gained widespread international

acclaim as the devil-evil priest in William Friedkin's controversial 1973 film "The Exorcist."

Tall and lanky, with sullen blue eyes, a narrow face, pale complexion and a deep and accented speaking voice, von Sydow was often typecast in Hollywood as the sophisticated villain.

"What I as an actor look for is a variety of parts. It is very boring to be stuck in more or less one type of character," he once said.

WORLD

New Malaysian Cabinet revealed with no deputy

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia — New Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin unveiled his Cabinet on Monday, saying that he will have no deputy prime minister, instead appointing four senior ministers to keep factions happy in his Malay-majority government.

Muhyiddin also named a banker as finance minister in an unprecedented step, and appears to deliver on promises of a graft-free Cabinet as he sought to shore up public support for his leadership.

"I want to form a Cabinet that can provide the best service to the people, a Cabinet that delivers. The senior ministers will help me in my job as prime minister, including chairing Cabinet meetings in my absence," he said in a televised announcement. "With these senior ministers, there is no need for a deputy prime minister to be appointed for now."

UK police shoot and kill knife-wielding man

LONDON — British police said that they shot dead a man who was wielding two knives near Trafalgar Square in central London.

The Metropolitan Police force said Monday that the shooting wasn't terror-related.

The force said that officers patrolling the area — close to Parliament and tourist hotspots — saw a man acting suspiciously late Sunday. When challenged, he produced two knives and was shot, the force said.

19 killed as Pakistan bus falls into ravine

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — A passenger bus tumbled off a winding, mountainous road and into a ravine in northern Pakistan on Monday, killing at least 19 people and injuring several others, a government spokesman said.

The cause of the accident was unclear, and rescue workers were still working at the scene recovering the injured and the dead and taking them to a nearby hospital, said Faiz Ullah Farooq, spokesman for the Gilgit-Baltistan region.

Such accidents are common in Pakistan, mainly due to insufficient enforcement of safety standards and poor infrastructure, particularly on battered mountain roads.

6 killed in Alpine avalanches in Austria

BERLIN — Six people were killed in two separate avalanches in the Austrian Alps on Sunday, Austrian authorities said.

Five snowshoers who were hiking in central Austria were hit by one avalanche at about 9:30 a.m. Austria's APA news agency reported. Several people witnessed the avalanche and immediately informed emergency services, but the hikers, believed to be from the Czech Republic, were already dead by the time rescuers got to them.

Presiding Judge Hendrik Steenhuis said that the criminal file in the case contains some

From The Associated Press

Software pushed jet down before crash

BY TOM KRISHER
AND DAVID KOENIG
Associated Press

Software designed to stop an aerodynamic stall activated four times as Ethiopian Airlines pilots struggled to control their Boeing 737 Max 8 shortly before the jet slammed into the ground on March 10, 2019.

That's one of many findings in an interim report on the crash released Monday by Ethiopia's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau. The report came out just a day before the one-year anniversary of the crash, which killed all 157 people on board.

The report makes safety recommendations and gives clues to the cause, but an analysis won't be done until the final report, which is expected later this year.

The software called MCAS pushes the nose of the plane down. That touched off the pilots' desperate struggle to regain control of the plane.

The report also blames a faulty sensor reading that led to the cascading events that brought the



MULUGETA AYENE/AP

Wreckage is piled last March at the crash site of Ethiopian Airlines flight ET302 near Bishoftu, Ethiopia.

plane down. And it said that pilots should have received simulator training on what to do if the flight-control system malfunctions.

One of Boeing's biggest selling points for the Max was that it was essentially the same as older 737s, and therefore no simulator training was needed to switch to the new aircraft.

Boeing said in a statement Monday that it is providing technical assistance to support the probe.

"We look forward to reviewing the full details and formal recommendations that will be included in the final report from the Ethiopian Accident Investigation Bureau," it said.

According to the report, the pilots de-activated MCAS and tried to control a stabilizer on the tail manually to point the nose back up. But their air speed was 575 miles per hour, which some experts believe put too much force

on the stabilizer, making manual movement nearly impossible.

About five minutes and 43 seconds after takeoff, the pilots apparently reactivated MCAS, and the plane descended despite the pilots exerting force to bring the nose up.

"The descent rate increased from minus 100 feet per minute to more than 5,000 feet per minute," the report said.

Dutch trial opens for 4 suspects in downing of flight MH17

BY MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

SCHIPHOL, Netherlands — Three Russians and a Ukrainian went on trial Monday in the Netherlands, charged with multiple counts of murder for their alleged involvement in the 2014 downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, which killed all 298 people aboard.

As expected, the suspects did not appear in the courtroom.

It's a day that has been a long time coming for family and friends of those killed on July 17, 2014, when a Buk missile blew MH17 out of the sky above conflict-torn eastern Ukraine.

Five black-robed judges — three who will hear the case and two alternates — filed silently into a packed courtroom on the edge of Schiphol, the airport from which the doomed flight took off, heading for Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. A small number of family members of victims were in court while others watched the proceedings via a video link from a conference center in the central Netherlands.

Among those in court was Piet Ploeg, who lost his brother, Alex, his sister-in-law and his nephew. Ploeg sat in court, his hands folded in front of him, listening attentively as the case started.

"Next of kin want justice, simple as that," he said. "We want justice for the fact that 298 people are murdered, and this court and the hearings (that) will start today will give us more clarity about what happened, why it happened and who was responsible for it."

Presiding Judge Hendrik Steenhuis said that the criminal file in the case contains some

36,000 pages and "an enormous amount of multimedia files."

Examining the evidence "will be a very painful and emotional period. There are many victims and, of course, because of that, there are many next of kin,"

Steenhuis said.

Jon and Mervyn O'Brien flew all the way from Sydney to witness the start of the unprecedented Dutch trial, hoping for justice for their son, Jack.

"The trial is important be-

cause the truth still matters," Jon said on the eve of the trial. "You shouldn't be able to murder 298 people and for there to be no consequences, regardless of who you are. So it's important the truth about that is told."

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WORLD



BIKAS DAS/AP

Festival of colors

Women smear colored powder on each other as they celebrate Holi, the festival of colors, in Kolkata, India, on Monday. The festival heralds the arrival of spring.

Saudi king appears in public

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Saudi Arabia's King Salman was shown in state media Sunday in apparent good health and working, just days after the arrest of two senior princes triggered speculation about a possible coup attempt or a sudden deterioration in the king's health.

Two people close to the royal family said Saturday that the two princes were under arrest for not supporting Crown Prince

Mohammed bin Salman, who has consolidated control of all major levers of power inside the kingdom with the support of his father, King Salman.

The reports of a crackdown emerged early Friday.

In the king's first appearance since then, state media showed the 84-year-old king Sunday standing and greeting two Saudi diplomats being sworn in as ambassadors.

From The Associated Press

Sudan PM says he survived 'terror attack'

BY SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

CAIRO — Sudan's prime minister said Monday he survived a "terror attack" after an explosion and gunfire targeted his motorcade in the capital of Khartoum.

Abdalla Hamdok, a longtime economist, tweeted he was "safe and in good shape" following the explosion. Sudanese state TV said Hamdok had been heading to his office when the attack took place.

Hamdok also tweeted a photo of himself smiling and seated at a large desk, while a TV behind him showed news coverage reporting he'd survived.

The attack highlighted the fragility of Sudan's transition to civilian rule, almost a year after pro-democracy protesters forced the military to remove autocratic President Omar al-Bashir from power and replace him with a joint military-civilian government, which has promised to hold elections in three years.

However, Sudan's generals remain the de facto rulers of the country and have shown little willingness to hand over power to civilians.

Hamdok, in his brief statement on Twitter, said, "Rest assured that what happened

today will not stand in the way of our transition, instead it is an additional push to the wheel of change in Sudan."

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

A statement from the prime minister's office said the attackers used explosives and firearms, and that a security officer was lightly wounded. The statement was read by Faisal Saleh, Sudan's information minister and interim government spokesman.

The protest movement that led the uprising against al-Bashir called the blast a "terrorist attack." The statement by the Forces for the Declaration of Freedom and Change called on people to take to the streets to "show our unity and cohesion ... and protect the transitional authority."

After months of negotiations, the military and the pro-democracy movement reached a power-sharing deal in August, at which point Hamdok took office. The deal established a joint military-civilian, 11-member sovereign council to govern Sudan for the next three years.

The U.S. Embassy in Sudan tweeted: "We continue to support Sudan's civilian-led transitional government and stand in solidarity with the Sudanese people."

Stripes SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



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944

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BY DAVID VON DREHLE

The Washington Post

A rich kid who is oblivious to his good fortune is said to be born on third base thinking he hit a triple. Surely this describes a certain president of the United States. Donald Trump has been courting the media and talking on camera for more than 40 years, and I don't think he has ever acknowledged how lucky a man he is. He chalks it all up to his very stable genius.

Given his desire to be rich, he was lucky to have a rich father. Then, when he leveraged his business and sank into bankruptcy, he was lucky to fail just as reality television was hitting its peak. Instead of being a successful businessman, Trump could make a fresh bundle by playing one on TV.

Then he got into politics, and — talk about lucky! — he found himself running against Democrats. Some of my best friends are Democrats, and they have many admirable qualities. But from the standpoint of pragmatic politics, they're honest; they often resemble the Three Stooges marching through a field full of garden rakes. Will Rogers famously quipped that, as a Democrat, he belonged to no organized party. The joke still works.

Just 10 days ago, it appeared as though the Democrats were allowing themselves to be hijacked by an elderly man waving an imaginary gun. How lucky could Trump get? Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent from Vermont, promises to take away everyone's health insurance and replace it with much higher taxes — an idea that was actually tried in Vermont not long ago and failed dramatically.

Not only that, Sanders is a candidate who finds it easy to describe life in the United

States as "unacceptable," having once called life in the old Soviet Union "reasonably happy." And not only that. The vast movement of new voters that Sanders claims to be leading is, in fact, much smaller than the insurgency he led, to little effect, in 2016. For Trump, the chance to run against Sanders was as fortuitous as inheriting another \$400 million.

But then the president's luck soured. House Majority Whip James Clyburn, of South Carolina, looked around at his hand-wringing fellow Democrats, heaved a sigh and told Sanders to put down his finger-pistol. Clyburn then loaded former Vice President Joe Biden onto a stretcher across the seats of the Democratic bus, climbed behind the wheel and floored it through South Carolina and across Super Tuesday.

Perhaps you're thinking that running against Biden is just a different kind of lucky. Fair point. Biden's wrestling match with the English language may not have gone well this campaign season, and many of the party leaders who have rushed to endorse him are afraid that his excellent victory speech in South Carolina was a fluke — like an eager Labrador jumping up on a piano and accidentally banging a few bars of Chopin.

But Biden is not the only reason to think the president's luck might be turning. Along comes COVID-19, the nasty little coronavirus that threatens to knock the wind out of Trump's robust economy.

First, what COVID-19 isn't: This is not the Andromeda strain. It's not going to kill us all. For most people who get it, the symptoms are no worse than the other crud that creeps through the human population each flu season.

But it is a very serious matter. Chinese authorities aren't known for their frivolity. They didn't shut down a major city

and blockade an entire province over the common cold. The Federal Reserve Board didn't order an emergency cut in interest rates just to fight the sniffles. The global organization of health care information experts didn't cancel its annual meeting for the first time in 58 years over nothing. COVID-19 is a highly contagious and potentially fatal disease for which we have no vaccine and, until recently, no good tests. The only way to fight such an outbreak — as China has demonstrated — is to keep people apart. COVID-19 has a slow incubation period, so you have to separate people for a long time: 14 days.

Commerce brings people together. So commerce and coronavirus don't mix.

At the sight of this particular black swan, Trump's beautiful, perfect stock market has lost roughly 4,000 points — and that's before the World Health Organization called on governments everywhere to pull out "all the stops." Let's assume those stops resemble the ones already pulled in East Asia. Travel stops. Industry stops. Entertainment stops. Dining out stops. Tourism stops.

Eventually, the virus stops. But the economic damage is done. The authoritative Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development predicted that COVID-19 will cut global growth in half if the virus spreads beyond East Asia. Since then, it has spread.

Trump's going to need a new campaign script. And this one won't be called "Mr. Lucky."

David Von Drehle writes a twice-weekly column for The Washington Post. He was previously an editor-at-large for Time Magazine, and is the author of four books, including "Rise to Greatness: Abraham Lincoln and America's Most Perilous Year" and "Triangled: The Fire That Changed America."

Honesty amid virus uncertainty is appreciated

BY SANDRA CROUSE QUINN

Special to The Baltimore Sun

We are still at the early stages of the coronavirus epidemic with new cases daily throughout the United States. But there are unknowns that limit what scientists, public health officials and governments confidently know about the virus — and can relay to everyday Americans.

That's always been true early in an epidemic, from severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic and the Middle East respiratory syndrome outbreak several years ago.

This uncertainty limits the ability of public health and government officials to give the public what it wants most — definitive answers. How is this new virus different from the common cold or the flu? What should we do to protect ourselves? How will it affect our daily lives? Unfortunately, uncertainty is a normal part of any pandemic, and it can take weeks or longer before public health officials and scientists know enough to give full and confident answers.

Yet, we are asking much from the American public. Go about your daily lives. Wash your hands. Cough into your elbow. And increasingly, begin to prepare to stay home if needed. Finally, we ask for support as governments at every level enact new policies and restrictions.

What do the American people need to understand to take action and manage their lives during what may be an extended period of hardship? The bottom line is trust. We've learned from the 2001 anthrax attack, H1N1 and the 2014 Ebola outbreak that the public is inclined to believe

that uncertainty and a lack of satisfactory answers are a sign that officials are "hiding something" or incompetent. When we distrust our public officials, we may not be ready and willing to take the actions they ask of us, and the result is dangerous.

My research on the H1N1 outbreak found that preparing the public for uncertainty and changing information increased trust and belief in public health officials who were being open about what they did and did not know about the virus. Public health leaders have learned important lessons from past pandemics. Dr. Nancy Messonnier, director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said during a press conference last month on the coronavirus: "Our guidance and advice are likely to be fluid and subject to change as we learn more. We will continue to keep you updated." This openness is vital and helps us trust her and the agency.

But trust can be easily undermined. A cardinal sin of communication in an epidemic is over-reassuring the public. The Trump administration repeatedly minimizes the coronavirus threat. The right way to communicate with the public is to help them anticipate change. On Feb. 25, Dr. Messonnier said, "We expect we will see community spread in this country. It's not so much a question of if this will happen anymore, but rather more a question of exactly when this will happen and how many people in this country will have severe illness." She was not just telling the truth, she was also helping us prepare emotionally for what is to come.

Empathy matters. Rather than offering false reassurances, it is critical for the

Trump administration to acknowledge how hard and scary this may become.

So, to our elected officials: You have critical responsibilities to the country. It is essential that you trust the experts from CDC, the National Institutes of Health and local health departments. Make sure they have the funding they need to manage this crisis. Tell us the truth. This is a dangerous virus, not a hoax, and there is no magic bullet.

The vaccine process will take a year or more. Help us prepare ourselves and our families. Tell us daily what you are learning and why you are making the decisions you are. Let us know you are human too, and acknowledge our worries and fears. Let go of blaming this on partisan politics and recognize the coronavirus is our common enemy. And finally, help us rise to our best selves — prepared to manage this crisis, able to bear what is coming and willing to look out for our extended families, friends, neighbors and those most in need. The coronavirus is a force of nature and our response to it is a reminder of our common humanity.

And to the American public: Get ready for change and uncertainty. We know that as science progresses, information will change, often multiple times a day, and consequently, recommendations and policies will change.

For some time, we will experience increasing numbers of coronavirus cases and deaths. It will get worse before it gets better.

Sandra Crouse Quinn is a professor and chair of the Department of Health and Science and senior associate director of the Maryland Center for Health Equity at the School of Public Health at the University of Maryland.

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



TIM CAMPBELL/Washington Post News Service



JEFF DANZIGER/Washington Post News Service



WALT HANDELSMAN/Tribune Content Agency

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TIM CAMPBELL/Washington Post News Service



JACK OHMAN/Washington Post Writers Group

SCOREBOARD

Sports
on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules.
myafn.net

Pro soccer

MLS

MLS Glance

Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Atlanta	1	0	0	4	4	3
Montreal	1	0	0	4	4	3
New York	1	0	1	4	3	2
Toronto FC	1	0	1	4	3	2
Columbus	1	0	1	4	3	2
D.C. United	1	1	0	3	3	3
Chicago	1	1	1	2	2	2
New England	0	1	1	1	2	2
Orlando City	0	1	1	1	2	2
Philadelphia	0	1	1	1	3	5
Cincinnati	0	2	0	0	3	5
Inter Miami CF	0	2	0	0	2	2
New York City FC	0	2	0	0	2	2
Western Conference						
Sporting KC	1	1	1	3	4	3
Minnesota United	2	0	0	6	5	3
Colorado	2	0	0	6	4	2
Seattle	1	0	1	4	4	2
Portland	1	1	0	3	2	3
San Jose	0	0	2	2	1	1
Real Salt Lake	0	0	2	2	1	1
LA Galaxy	0	1	1	1	1	2
San Jose	0	1	1	1	1	2
Houston	0	1	1	1	1	2
Nashville SC	0	2	1	0	3	

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday's games

Chicago	New England	1, tie
New York	Real Salt Lake	1, tie
Montreal	1, tie	2, tie
D.C. United	2, tie	1, tie
Toronto FC	1, New York City FC	0
Portland	2, Cincinnati	1, tie
Minnesota	1, tie	2, tie
Sporting Kansas City	4, Houston	0
Colorado	2, Orlando City	1
Vancouver	1, tie	2
Columbus	1, Seattle	1, tie

Sunday's games

Portland	1, Nashville	0
Philadelphia	2, Columbus	3, tie
Saturday, March 14		
FC Dallas	2, New York City FC	0
LA Galaxy	1, Miami	0
Seattle	1, Portland	0
Real Salt Lake	1, Columbus	0
D.C. United	1, Cincinnati	0
Seattle	1, Atlanta	0
Atlanta	1, Portland	0

Sunday, March 15

Portland	1, New England	0
Philadelphia	2, Columbus	3, tie
Saturday, March 14		
FC Dallas	2, New York City FC	0
LA Galaxy	1, Miami	0
Seattle	1, Portland	0
Real Salt Lake	1, Columbus	0
D.C. United	1, Cincinnati	0
Seattle	1, Atlanta	0
Atlanta	1, Portland	0

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Seattle	1, Atlanta	0
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Real Salt Lake	1, Columbus	0
D.C. United	1, Cincinnati	0
Seattle	1, Atlanta	0
Atlanta	1, Portland	0

Sunday, March 15

Portland</td

NHL

Rookie paces Canes in rout of Pens

Geekie scores twice in his first NHL game

By WILL GRAVES
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Morgan Geekie didn't have time to think.

On Saturday he was in the minors. By Sunday afternoon, the newest Carolina Hurricanes forward found himself thrust in the middle of the playoff race. The 21-year-old rookie hardly looked overwhelmed by the moment. Neither did his team.

Geekie scored twice and dished out an assist in his NHL debut, a 6-2 victory over listless Pittsburgh that capped a frantic 24 hours for the 2017 third-round pick. He arrived in town late Saturday night after being called up from the American Hockey League.

By the middle of the first period, he'd already had his first NHL goal then added an exclamation point in the third period to cap a dominant performance by the Hurricanes. Things happened so quickly Geekie didn't have time to get nervous.

"It's kind of good that way, that you don't get to think about stuff," Geekie said. "You kind of go out there and play the game you're used to play. Just tried to go out there and keep things simple, adjust to the speed of the game and play hard out here."

Justin Williams added two third-period goals for Carolina, which pulled into a tie with the New York Islanders for the second wild card in the Eastern Conference. Columbus remained two points ahead after beating Vancouver Sunday night. Alex Nedeljkovic stopped 28 shots to earn the second win of his career for Carolina.

Roundup

Blue Jackets' Merzlikins holds off Canucks in return

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Elvis Merzlikins made 26 saves in his return after missing four games with a concussion, and the Columbus Blue Jackets held off the Vancouver Canucks for a 2-1 win Sunday.

"It was hard to get back in the game," said the 25-year-old rookie, who boasts a .923 save percentage through 33 games this season. "I don't know if Vancouver is a really quick team or it was just the feeling that in five minutes it was like, 'Wow, it's really fast, the game is.'"

Emil Bemstrom and Eric Robinson scored to help the Blue Jackets move two points ahead of Carolina and the New York Islanders for the top Eastern Conference wild card.

Elias Pettersson got the goal for the Canucks, who are tied with the Predators and Jets for the second wild card in the West.

Red Wings 4, Lightning 4: Robby Fabbri scored the winning goal in a shootout as Detroit snapped a 16-game losing streak against Tampa Bay in the regular



KEITH SRAKOCIC/AP

Carolina Hurricanes goaltender Alex Nedeljkovic stops a shot by Pittsburgh Penguins right wing Patric Hornqvist during the Hurricanes' 6-2 win Sunday in Pittsburgh.

"That third period was as quiet as I've ever heard here," Williams said. "This arena gets really buzzing. So we definitely did something right."

Patrick Marleau and Evgeni Malkin scored for the Penguins and Tristan Jarry finished with 30 saves but the team capped a miserable weekend at home by losing for the second time in 24 hours to teams they're scrapping with for positioning in the crowded Metropolitan Division.

Pittsburgh headed into Saturday with some momentum after wins over Ottawa and Buffalo halted a six-game losing streak that marked the franchise's longest in a decade. By Sunday after-

noon the Penguins were reeling after getting manhandled by first-place Washington and following it up with a lethargic performance against one of the teams they are attempting to fend off for a play-off spot.

"It's a tight league, that happens sometimes," Pittsburgh captain Sidney Crosby said. "These last two games, you look at (the Capitals) game, a few mistakes early on gets us behind the 8-ball and then today just a short span in the second period, they tie it and get the lead. We're talking about small things here."

Small things that are leading toward big problems for Pittsburgh, which has dropped 8 of

10 and is as close to missing the postseason as it is in third place in the division.

"We're obviously not thrilled with the position we're in over the last few weeks," Penguins coach Mike Sullivan said. "We all have to take ownership for it and now we have to take responsibility to pull ourselves out of it."

The Hurricanes, by contrast, appear to be heading in the other direction. Just 24 hours removed from an overtime victory over the New York Islanders, Carolina backed it up by drilling Pittsburgh in the first of four meetings between the teams over the next three weeks.

Flames 3, Wild 2

Robert Bortuzzo and Alex Pietrangelo scored for the Central Division-leading Blues, who killed four Chicago power plays as they rebounded from a 4-2 home loss to lowly New Jersey on Friday. Jaden Schwartz had two assists.

Bortuzzo only in spurs in his 21st career shootout. St. Louis swept its season series from the Blackhawks, winning all four games and outscoring Chicago 16-8.

Golden Knights 5, Flames 3: Shea Theodore scored the tiebreaking goal with 1:10 remaining and Vegas recovered after giving up a three-goal lead on the road.

Nick Holden had a goal and an assist for the Golden Knights, who regained top spot in the Pacific Division over idle Edmonton. Tomas Nosek, Max Pacioretty and Jonathan Marchessault also scored for Vegas.

Making his third start for the Golden Knights since being acquired from Chicago at the trade deadline, Robin Lehner made 19 saves to improve to 3-0-0 with his new team.

Milan Lucic had a goal and an assist for Calgary, which had won three straight. Dillon Dube and Matthew Tkachuk also

Flames 3, Wild 2

scored for the Flames.

Wild 5, Ducks 4: Kevin Fiala scored his second goal of the game with 59 seconds left in overtime and Minnesota won at Anaheim.

Alex Galchenyuk, Victor Rask, and Mats Zuccarello also scored, and the Wild reclaimed the first wild card in the Western Conference. Minnesota has won eight of its past 11 games and seven of eight on the road.

Dean Dubnyk made 22 saves in his first start Feb. 23 after Alex Stalock started the previous seven games.

Jakob Silfverberg had two goals and an assist, but the Ducks fell short of matching a season-high three-game win streak.

Avalanche 4, Sharks 3: Nathan MacKinnon and Gabriel Landeskog each had a goal and two assists and Colorado's top line rolled to a win at San Jose.

MacKinnon and Landeskog scored the first two goals for the Avalanche and then set up Vladislav Namestnikov for the go-ahead score midway through the second period to give Colorado its 10th win in its past 11 road games.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division							
GP	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Boston	69	43	14	12	98	255	174
Tampa Bay	69	43	20	6	92	244	193
Florida	69	34	26	8	76	229	227
Montreal	69	31	36	7	71	210	217
Ottawa	69	25	32	12	62	187	215
Detroit	70	37	42	5	99	143	235

Metropolitan Division

Metropolitan Division							
GP	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Washington	68	41	20	7	89	238	212
Philadelphia	68	41	20	7	89	232	194
New York Islanders	68	37	32	9	74	216	215
Dallas	70	33	27	8	81	178	173
Minnesota	69	35	27	7	77	220	220
Colorado	67	36	33	5	77	211	211
New York Rangers	68	36	28	4	76	228	217
New Jersey	68	28	48	2	68	208	199

Western Conference

Central Division							
GP	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
St. Louis	69	41	18	10	92	220	189
Colorado	69	37	23	8	74	216	215
Dallas	68	37	23	8	76	228	217
Minnesota	69	35	27	7	77	220	220
Chicago	69	35	28	6	76	208	199

Pacific Division

Pacific Division							
GP	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Vegas	70	38	24	8	84	224	210
Edmonton	69	37	24	8	82	221	209
Calgary	69	35	27	6	76	223	213
Vancouver	69	33	33	3	74	193	188
Arizona	69	32	34	3	74	200	200
San Jose	69	29	35	5	63	180	220
Los Angeles	69	29	35	5	63	197	209

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division advance to the wild cards per conference advance.

Saturday's games

Washington 5, Pittsburgh 2

Carolina 3, Minnesota 2

Nashville 1, Dallas 0

Los Angeles 3, New York Rangers 4

Philadelphia 3, Buffalo 1

Florida 4, Montreal 1

Tampa Bay 5, Boston 3

Edmonton 4, Carolina 1

Sunday's games

Carolina 6, Pittsburgh 2

Tampa Bay 5, New Jersey 4

Vegas 3, Florida 2

St. Louis 2, Chicago 0

Carolina 3, Minnesota 2

Edmonton 4, Colorado 2

Florida 4, Los Angeles 3

Washington at Buffalo 3

Arizona at Winnipeg 4

Pittsburgh at Boston 3

Vegas at Edmonton 3

Colorado at Los Angeles 3

Boston at Philadelphia 3

Nashville at Montreal 3

Edmonton at New Jersey 3

Tampa Bay at Toronto 3

Carolina at Detroit 3

Edmonton at Columbus 3

Vegas at Vancouver 3

Ottawa at Anaheim 3

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AUTO RACING/GOLF



RALPH FRESO/AP

Joey Logano does a burnout to celebrate winning Sunday's NASCAR Cup race at Phoenix Raceway, his second win in three weeks.

Logano holds off Harvick at Phoenix

By DAVID BRANDT

Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — Joey Logano raced to his second NASCAR Cup Series win in three weeks, holding off Kevin Harvick over the final two laps after an overtime restart Sunday at Phoenix Raceway.

Also the winner two weeks ago in Las Vegas for Team Penske, Logano has 25 career Cup victories. He overcame several tough moments during an entertaining race, including a pit-road penalty for an uncontrolled tire and a broken jack during another stop.

A late caution triggered the two-lap overtime shootout with Logano, Harvick and Kyle Busch all in a decent position to win. Logano had a good restart at the mile oval and was able to hold off Harvick. Busch was third, Kyle Larson finished fourth and Clint Bowyer was fifth.

"That was a pretty intense last 30 minutes or hour of the race. A lot going on," Logano said. "Couldn't be more proud of this team. Two wins already in the books. We've got to keep this thing rocking."

Pole-sitter Chase Elliott and Harvick dominated the first half of the race but Elliott had to make a green-flag stop because of a loose front tire and fell a lap behind the leaders. He eventually earned a free pass to get back on the lead lap and fin-

ished seventh. The Phoenix race was the first under NASCAR's new rules package for short tracks, which included a significantly smaller rear spoiler. The hope was the changes would make for more passing and excitement during the race.

For the most part, the tweaks seemed to have their desired effect. There were 20 lead changes and plenty of passing and contact back in the pack. Phoenix also is the site of the Cup Series championship in November.

Elliott started on the pole while Harvick — who has won nine times in Phoenix — also was on the front row. Elliott led the first 61 laps of the race before Harvick beat him off pit road following the first caution.

Harvick had his fourth top 10 finish in four races, but was disappointed he couldn't get past Logano at the end.

"Joey was just good enough to run a couple laps there and get where I needed to be on track position," Harvick said.

Cole Custer was the highest finishing rookie in ninth place.

Bad luck for Blaney

An early wreck involved three of the front-runners, including Brad Keselowski, Denny Hamlin and Ryan Blaney. Hamlin's Toyota made contact with the left rear of Keselowski's Ford as they were fighting

for position following a restart. The collision left Blaney with nowhere to go and all three ended up with at least minor damage after sliding up into the wall. Keselowski and Hamlin were able to stay in the race but Blaney's car was too heavily damaged to continue.

Keselowski was able to recover and eventually led 82 laps before settling for a 11th-place finish.

Hamlin won the Daytona 500 three weeks ago and also won at Phoenix in November, but finished 20th on Sunday. It was a bit of bad luck for Blaney, who was the Cup points leader coming into the race and agreed to an multiyear extension with Team Penske on Friday. He finished 37th.

"It stinks we get taken out early like that, but that's just part of it," Blaney said.

Truex starts from the back

Martin Truex Jr. had to start from the back of the 38-car field because of an engine change before Sunday's race. He initially qualified 12th. John Hunter Nemechek also had to drop to the back row because of a radiator change.

Truex was able to recover quickly and was among the leaders — even leading 11 laps — until he hit the wall while in heavy traffic on a restart late in the race. He finished 32nd.

Hatton wins at Bay Hill

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Tyrrell Hatton went from losing his mind to winning the tournament.

Hatton served up the most demanding test this side of a major, and Hatton kept it together down the stretch Sunday by playing bogey-free over the last seven holes for a 2-over 74 to win the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

It was his fifth victory worldwide, and first on the PGA Tour, and it came in just his second start since returning from surgery on his right wrist during the offseason.

But the 28-year-old Englishman could only smile when he tapped in a 3-foot putt on the 18th for a one-shot victory over Marc Leishman, one of the few players who kept moving forward — barely — on another day of blustery, brittle conditions at Bay Hill.

Hatton finished at 4-under 284, one of only four players who beat par for the week, the fewest at Bay Hill since 1980. So severe was the course that Matt Fitzpatrick closed with a 69, the only player to break 70 on the weekend.

Rory McIlroy, one shot behind going into the final round, had a 76 for his highest closing round in a PGA Tour-sanctioned event since a 76 in the 2013 U.S. Open at Merion. He still tied for fifth, his eighth consecutive finish in the top five worldwide dating to September.

Sungjae Im, trying to become the first player since David Duval in 1997 to win his first two PGA Tour titles in consecutive weeks, closed with a 73 to finish third.



PHELAN M. EBENHACK/AP

Tyrrell Hatton of England reacts to the weight of the trophy after he won the Arnold Palmer Invitational on Sunday in Orlando, Fla., his first PGA Tour victory.



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NBA

LeBron's Lakers top streaking Clippers

Playoff atmosphere for late-season meeting between Los Angeles rivals

BY BETH HARRIS

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — LeBron James closed out a weekend to remember. First, he outduled Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Milwaukee Bucks in a matchup of NBA conference leaders. Then he kept the Los Angeles Lakers rolling with a victory over the streaking Clippers.

James had 28 points, seven rebounds and nine assists Sunday in 112-103 victory that ended the Clippers' six-game winning streak. He put up 37 points, eight rebounds and seven assists Friday against the Bucks.

"His best weekend in a Lakers uniform I'm assuming," first-year coach Frank Vogel said. "I wasn't here last year but, in my mind, this was the best two-game stretch. Really just dominated both games."

The Lakers won their fourth in a row and 11th in 12 games. Anthony Davis scored 30 points and Avery Bradley added 24.

"It's a really good weekend for us, playing against two of the best teams, the top two teams in the league with us as far as record-wise," James said. "I just think we kept our composure throughout the whole game."

The Lakers recently clinched a playoff berth for the first time since 2013, and it's possible they could meet the Clippers in the postseason. The crowd made it feel like a playoff atmosphere, with a strong contingent of raucous Lakers fans on hand for what was a Clippers home game. They chanted "MVP! MVP!" when James completed a three-point play that tied the Lakers' largest lead of 12 points with 40 seconds to play.

The Clippers led 53-49 at halftime with their largest lead of nine coming in the second quarter.

"Just trying to come out in the second half and not let the game get away from us," Davis said. "We wanted to make sure we come out with a little bit more offensive intensity and aggression."

Paul George scored 31 points, Kawhi Leonard added 27 and Montrezl Harrell had 20 for



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Lakers forward LeBron James dives for a loose ball during the second half of Sunday's game against the Clippers in Los Angeles. The Lakers won their fourth straight, 112-103.

the Clippers. They lost to the Lakers for the first time in three games this season.

With the Lakers up by four points, James hit a three-pointer to open the fourth. His three-point play and a basket by Davis capped a 14-6 run that pushed it to 99-87, their first double-digit lead of the game.

"The first time we played Milwaukee and the previous two times we played the Clippers we beat ourselves," Davis said. "When we don't do that — get a shot on goal every time and don't turn the ball over — then we're a tough team to beat."

The Clippers had more turnovers (15) than

assists (12).

"When you don't move the ball on top of that you can't win the game," Rivers said.

George and Leonard combined to score 12 straight points during a stretch in the fourth, but they could never get a sustained run going.

"They were the team that really wanted it and they went and got it," George said. "It's hard to beat any team three times in a row in this league. It doesn't set us back."

Bradley hit four of his season-high six three-pointers in the third, helping the Lakers take their first lead since the opening quarter.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	45	18	.714	—
Boston	42	21	.667	3
Philadelphia	39	24	.613	7
Brooklyn	39	34	.546	16
New York	20	44	.313	25

Southeast Division

Atlanta	23	64	—	
Orlando	29	35	.453	1
Washington	29	36	.457	7
Charlotte	22	41	.349	18%
Atlanta	19	46	.292	22%

Central Division

x-Milwaukee	53	11	.828	—
Indiana	39	25	.605	14
Chicago	29	37	.455	23
Detroit	20	45	.308	33%
Cleveland	19	45	.297	34

Western Conference

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	39	24	.619	—
Dallas	30	32	.490	1
Memphis	32	32	.500	7%
New Orleans	28	36	.438	11%
San Antonio	20	45	.313	27

Northwest Division

Denver	42	21	.667	—
Oklahoma City	40	24	.625	2%
Portland	39	37	.431	15
Minnesota	34	42	.402	23

Pacific Division

x-L.A. Lakers	53	79	—	61%
Utah	43	36	.548	—
Sacramento	28	36	.438	22
Phoenix	26	38	.417	24
Golden State	20	45	.234	35

Saturday's games

Charlotte	111	111	105
Cleveland	108	108	102
Memphis	118	118	103
Philadelphia	123	123	114
Sacramento	123	123	111

Sunday's games

Brooklyn	108	108	107
New Orleans	120	120	103
Phoenix	120	120	103
Philadelphia	120	120	104
Oklahoma City	105	105	101
Indiana	112	112	106
Memphis	100	100	99
Minnesota	123	123	109
Cleveland	122	122	109
Toronto	118	118	103

Wednesday's games

Boston	108	108	104
Washington	120	120	104
Philadelphia	120	120	104
Golden State	120	120	104
Brooklyn	120	120	104

Thursday's games

Detroit	108	108	104
Charlotte	120	120	104
New York	120	120	104
Utah	120	120	104
New Orleans	120	120	104

Friday's games

Boston	120	120	107
Washington	120	120	107
Philadelphia	120	120	107
Golden State	120	120	107
Brooklyn	120	120	107

Wednesday's games

Boston	108	108	104
Washington	120	120	104
Philadelphia	120	120	104
Golden State	120	120	104
Brooklyn	120	120	104

Thursday's games

Boston	120	120	107
Washington	120	120	107
Philadelphia	120	120	107
Golden State	120	120	107
Brooklyn	120	120	107

Friday's games

Boston	120	120	107
Washington	120	120	107
Philadelphia	120	120	107
Golden State	120	120	107
Brooklyn	120	120	107

Saturday's games

Boston	120	120	107
Washington	120	120	107
Philadelphia	120	120	107
Golden State	120	120	107
Brooklyn	120	120	107

Sunday's games

Boston	120	120	107
Washington	120	120	107
Philadelphia	120	120	107
Golden State	120	120	107
Brooklyn	120	120	107

Monday's games

Boston	120	120	107
Washington	120	120	107
Philadelphia	120	120	107
Golden State	120	120	107
Brooklyn	120	120	107

Tuesday's games

Boston	120	120	107
Washington	120	120	107
Philadelphia	120	120	107
Golden State	120	120	107
Brooklyn	120	120	107

Wednesday's games

Boston	120	120	107
Washington	120	120	107
Philadelphia	120	120	107
Golden State	120	120	107
Brooklyn	120	120	107

Thursday's games

Boston	120	120	107
Washington	120	120	107
Philadelphia	120	120	107
Golden State	120	120	107
Brooklyn	120	120	107

Friday's games

Boston	120	120	107
Washington	120	120	107
Philadelphia	120	120	107
Golden State	120	120	107
Brooklyn	120	120	107

Saturday's games

Boston	120	120
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VIRUS OUTBREAK



EUGENE HOSHIO/AP

A Feb. 29 preseason game between the Yomiuri Giants and the Yakult Swallows, played in a stadium devoid of fans. Japanese officials said Monday they are postponing the start of the 12-team professional baseball league season because of the spread of the coronavirus.

Virus postpones opening of pro baseball season in Japan

Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese officials postponed the start of the 12-team professional baseball league season on Monday because of the spread of the coronavirus.

The season was to open on March 20. Japan's professional league had been playing its preseason games without fans because of the virus.

"I personally believe that we have no choice but to postpone at this stage," Japanese league commissioner Atsushi Saito said.

Baseball officials said they were unsure when the season might start, but mentioned some time in April.

Japan's baseball league last suspended play in 2011 after an earthquake, tsunami and the subsequent meltdown of three nuclear reactors in Fukui-

shima prefecture, located 150 miles northeast of Tokyo.

The head of the soccer J-League said it was also extending its suspension of play. That league had suspended play until March 18.

"At this moment I think it's very difficult to resume the matches," J-League chairman Mitsuru Murai said.

An expert in infection control has been advising both leagues.

"We suggested at this point it would be better to postpone their matches," said Mitsuho Kaku, a professor at Tohoku Medical and Pharmaceutical University.

Baseball and soccer are among many sports that have been shut down in Japan by the spreading virus, or taking place without fans.

Indian Wells tennis postponed due to nearby case of virus

Associated Press

The BNP Paribas Open, the high-profile tennis tournament set to begin this week in the California desert, won't be played as scheduled after a case of coronavirus was confirmed in the Coachella Valley.

It's the largest U.S. sporting event to be called off over concerns about the spread of the disease. The South by Southwest Festival in Austin, Texas, was canceled Friday.

The announcement came Sunday night after many players were already in the desert practicing. Qualifying matches were to begin Monday with women's main draw matches starting

Wednesday and the men's draw beginning Thursday.

"We're here and still deciding what's next," tweeted Rafael Nadal, the world's second-ranked player. "So sad for all that is happening around the world with this situation. Hopefully soon solutions from the authorities. Stay all well and safe."

The Riverside County Public Health Department declared a public health emergency for the desert cities 110 miles east of Los Angeles, including Indian Wells, where the ATP and WTA tours were to play the two-week tournament.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has declared a state of emergency. California has reported 114 cases of

the virus.

"There is too great a risk, at this time, to the public health of the Riverside County area in holding a large gathering of this size," Dr. David Agus, professor of medicine and biomedical engineering at the University of Southern California, said Sunday. "It is not in the public interest of fans, players and neighboring areas for this tournament to proceed."

The event typically draws upwards of 450,000 fans. It is commonly referred to as the "fifth slam" because of its popularity among the players and its stature, ranking points and over \$17 million in prize money that place it one rung below tennis' four Grand Slam tournaments.

No fans, no fun:

Athletes uneasy over empty-arena solutions

By JAKE SEINER
Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — As U.S. sports leagues weigh whether to bar fans from ballpark and stadiums to help stall the coronavirus outbreak, San Francisco Giants pitcher Jeff Samardzija is one of the few players who can tell them exactly what that feels like.

"It's not very fun," he said.

Samardzija pitched for the Chicago White Sox in a 2015 game played without fans in Baltimore due to civil unrest in the city. It was a bizarre scene at Camden Yards — a sun-drenched stadium, empty except for the teams — but something that has already become common internationally and could happen in the U.S. if there's no slowdown to the spread of the COVID-19 strain that has infected more than 100,000 people worldwide.

The global virus outbreak has caused concern about cramming tens of thousands of fans in for games that technically can go on without them.

Sports leagues in Europe, Asia and the Middle East have already locked supporters out of venues, and the NBA sent a memo to its franchises Friday warning them to prepare for the possibility that it may have to host games without fans.

While U.S. sports leagues have been in regular contact with each other regarding the outbreak, MLB and the NHL have not yet issued similar notices.

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred plans to discuss the coronavirus with team owners in a conference call Monday — the first league-wide call between clubs and the commissioner about the outbreak. But at this stage, the league plans to open the season in 2½ weeks as planned.

With the situation evolving quickly, athletes in the U.S. are becoming aware — and concerned — about the possibility of playing behind closed doors.

DID YOU KNOW?

While the NBA sent a memo to its franchises Friday warning them to prepare for the possibility that it may have to host games without fans because of coronavirus concerns, Major League Baseball and the NHL have not sent similar notices yet.

SOURCE: Associated Press

Los Angeles Lakers star LeBron James said Friday he "ain't playing if I ain't got the fans in the crowd," and other players also said they'd be disappointed to suit up for empty seats.

"Boring. Boring." Chicago White Sox shortstop Tim Anderson said. "We get the energy from our fans. It would suck, man."

Virus concerns are greater in some pockets of the country — like in Washington state, which has reported 16 deaths.

Fears around the outbreak have already affected sports attendance there. The Seattle Sounders drew 33,080 fans Saturday night, the smallest crowd for an MLS regular season match in the soccer-crazed city since the club's inaugural season in 2009.

"That would be an odd one to play in an empty stadium," Sounders coach Brian Schmetz said. "It'd be like 'OK, we're playing, but something is missing.'"

Washington officials are already cautioning residents to avoid large gatherings — and one of the biggest on the schedule is when the Mariners host the Texas Rangers for opening day March 26.

Seattle has been monitoring the situation in conjunction with MLB and taken precautions around its spring training complex in Peoria, Ariz. But Mariners vice president of communications Tim Healy said that at this stage, "we have no specific concerns or precautions based on what is happening in Washington."



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Novak Djokovic of Serbia walks off the court at the 2019 BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament in Indian Wells, Calif. This year's tournament, set to begin Wednesday, has been postponed after a case of coronavirus was confirmed in the Coachella Valley.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL



RICK SCUTERI/AP

Wildcats guard Dylan Smith (3) is defended by Washington Huskies forward Isaiah Stewart during Saturday's game in Tucson, Ariz.

Berths: Conference tourney will dictate how many Pac-12 teams play in March Madness

FROM BACK PAGE

"I can't say 100%, but I imagine we are," Arizona State coach Bobby Hurley said. "We've had a great year, we have a great story, we have one of the most dynamic players in college basketball the rest of the country should get to see — and Remy wants that stage."

Stanford (20-11, 9-9) missed a massive opportunity to pad its resume with Saturday's loss to the Ducks. The Cardinal were the surprise of the conference early in the season but lost six of seven during one stretch of the Pac-12 season and dropped its final two regular-season games.

Winning a game or two at the Pac-12 Tournament may be needed for Stanford to get back to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2014.

Rising

Rutgers: The Scarlet Knights (20-11, 11-9 Big Ten) moved a step closer to their first NCAA Tournament trip since 1991 with Saturday's 71-68 OT win at Purdue.

Utah State: The Aggies (26-8) took out the gueswork by beating No. 5 San Diego State in the Mountain West Conference final. They also shrank the bubble by one, possibly costing a team in the spot in the field of 68.

Oklahoma: The Sooners (19-12, 9-9 Big 12) capped the regular season with a last-second 78-76 road win over TCU to push them further from the bubble. A win over West Virginia to open the Big 12 Tournament would make them feel even more comfortable.

North Carolina State: The Wolfpack (19-12, 10-10 ACC) needed to beat Wake Forest to keep their ACC hopes alive and did, 84-64. Winning a game or two in the ACC Tournament will do even more for their chances.



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Rutgers' Geo Baker celebrates during the Scarlet Knights' 71-68 overtime win over Purdue in West Lafayette, Ind., Saturday.

Falling

Xavier: The Musketeers (19-12, 8-10 Big Ten) didn't do themselves any favors by closing the regular season with two straight losses. Xavier doesn't have any bad losses, but with just three Quid 1 wins, a loss to DePaul in its Big East Tournament opener could lead to a tense Selection Sunday.

Texas Tech: The Red Raiders (18-13, 9-9 Big 12) could have made things a whole lot easier with a win over No. 1 Kansas. A 66-62 loss means last year's national runner-up may need a win in the Big 12 Tournament to feel more comfortable on Sunday.

Purdue: The Boilermakers (16-15, 9-11 Big Ten) may have lost their last hope of an at-large bid with the loss to Rutgers. Purdue likely has too many losses to get in and a losing conference record doesn't help.

South Carolina: An 83-74 loss to Vanderbilt on Saturday likely puts the Gamecocks (18-13, 8-6 SEC) in the position of making a deep SEC Tournament run to earn a spot in the field of 68.

Scoreboard

Conference tournaments

America East Conference

First Round

Saturday, March 7

UMBC 73, New Hampshire 67
UMBC 73, New Hampshire 67
Vermont 61, Maine 50
Stony Brook 76, Albany 73

Tuesday, March 10

UMBC at Vermont
Hartford vs. Stony Brook

American Athletic Conference

At Fort Worth, Texas

Thursday, March 12

South Florida vs. UCF
UCF vs. South Florida
SMU vs. Temple

Friday, March 13

Memphis vs. East Carolina
Cincinnati vs. South Florida-UCF winner

Wichita State vs. UConn-Tulane winner

Houston vs. Memphis-East Carolina winner

Atlantic Coast Conference

At Greensboro, N.C.

First Round

Tuesday, March 10

Wake Forest vs. Pittsburgh
Virginia Tech vs. North Carolina

Second Round

Wednesday, March 11

Clemson vs. Miami
McGraw vs. Wake Forest-Pittsburgh

Notre Dame vs. Boston College

SMU vs. Virginia Tech-North Carolina winner

Thursday, March 12

Florida State vs. Clemson-Miami winner

Duke vs. NC State—Wake Forest-Pittsburgh winner

Virginia vs. Notre Dame-Boston College

Louisville vs. Syracuse—Virginia Tech-North Carolina winner

At Louisville Conference

Championship

Sunday, March 8

Liberty 73, Lipscomb 57

Wednesday, March 11

George Mason vs. Saint Joseph's

George Washington vs. Fordham

Second Round

Thursday, March 12

UMass vs. La Salle
St. Bonaventure vs. George Mason

Saint Joseph's vs. George Washington-Fordham winner

Friday, March 13

Danbury vs. UMass-UCW winner

Saint Louis vs. St. Bonaventure

George Mason vs. Saint Joseph's

Richmond vs. Davidson-La Salle winner

Saturday, March 14

Rhode Island vs. Duquesne—George Washington-Fordham winner

Big East Conference

First Round

At New York

Wednesday, March 11

Georgetown 73, Saint Louis 65

Xavier vs. DePaul

Thursday, March 12

Creighton vs. Georgetown-St. John's

Friday, March 13

Providence vs. Butler

Villanova vs. Xavier-DePaul winner

Seth Hall vs. Seton Hall

Big East Conference

First Round

At Boise, Idaho

Wednesday, March 11

Weber State vs. Sacramento State

Southern Miss vs. Idaho

Northern Arizona vs. Idaho State

Quartefinals

Thursday, March 12

Utah State vs. Weber State

Portland State vs. Montana State

Montana vs. Colorado vs. Southern Utah

Montana vs. Northern Arizona-Idaho State

Quartefinals

Friday, March 13

Minnesota vs. Northwestern

Indiana vs. Nebraska

Second Round

Thursday, March 12

Rutgers vs. Michigan

Louisville vs. Minnesota-Northwestern

Ohio State vs. Purdue

Penn State vs. Indiana-Nebraska winner

Quartefinals

Friday, March 13

Wisconsin vs. Rutgers-Michigan winner

Northern Iowa vs. Minnesota-Northwestern

Michigan State vs. Ohio State-Purdue

Wisconsin vs. Maryland

Penn State vs. Indiana-Nebraska

Braska winner

Quartefinals

Friday, March 13

Wisconsin vs. Rutgers-Michigan

Northwest Conference

Semifinals

Saturday, March 7

Bradley 76, Drake 60

Valparaiso vs. Missouri State 82

Championship

Sunday, March 8

Bradley 84, Drake 66

Mountain West Conference

At Las Vegas

Championship

Saturday, March 7

Utah State 59, San Diego State 56

Northwest Conference

Semifinals

Sunday, March 7

Saint Francis 75, Sacred Heart 72

Championship

Tuesday, March 10

Robert Morris 88, LIU Brooklyn 66

Championship

Tuesday, March 10

Robert Morris vs. Saint Francis (Pa.)

Big 12 Conference

At Kansas City, Mo.

First Round

Wednesday, March 11

Oklahoma State vs. Iowa State

Texas vs. Kansas State

Winners

Thursday, March 12

Texas vs. Kansas

Losers

Friday, March 13

Oklahoma State vs. Kansas

Saturday, March 14

Oklahoma State vs. Kansas

Sunday, March 15

Oklahoma State vs. Kansas

Championship

Tuesday, March 10

Oklahoma State vs. Kansas

Wednesday, March 11

Oklahoma State vs. Kansas

Thursday, March 12

Oklahoma State vs. Kansas

Friday, March 13

Oklahoma State vs. Kansas

Saturday, March 14

Oklahoma State vs. Kansas

Sunday, March 15

Oklahoma State vs. Kansas

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Oklahoma State vs. Kansas

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Oklahoma State vs. Kansas

Sunday, March 15

Oklahoma State vs. Kansas

Championship

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Friday, March 13

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Oklahoma State vs. Kansas

Sunday, March 15

Oklahoma State vs. Kansas

Championship

Tuesday, March 10

Oklahoma State vs. Kansas

Wednesday, March 11

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Thursday, March 12

Oklahoma State vs. Kansas

Friday, March 13

Oklahoma State vs. Kansas

Saturday, March 14

Oklahoma State vs. Kansas

Sunday, March 15

Oklahoma State vs. Kansas

Championship

Tuesday, March 10

Oklahoma State vs. Kansas

Wednesday, March 11

Oklahoma State vs. Kansas

Thursday, March 12

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Conference championships

Winthrop returns to NCAA Tournament

Associated Press

ROCK HILL, S.C. — It took a freshman to bring Winthrop back to where it almost always used to go — the NCAA Tournament.

DJ Burns scored 18 points, 12 of them in the second half, to lead the second-seeded Eagles to a 76-68 win over fifth-seeded Hampton Sunday in the Big South Conference championship game.

Winthrop is off to its 11th NCAA Tournament, but just the fourth for the Eagles (24-10) since 2007, when coach Gregg Marshall set the bar for small conference excellence, winning the Big South seven times in nine seasons before heading to Wichita State.

"You walk in that gym every day and you look up and those banners just stare at you," said Winthrop coach Pat Kelsey, who made his second Big Dance in his eighth season.

Kelsey blew a kiss to his family as the buzzer sounded and students, let in free at the university president's declaration on Twitter, stormed the court. The No. 2 seed Eagles got to play at home after Hampton (15-19) beat top-seed Radford in the semifinals.

Hunter Hale threw the ball almost into the rafters as the students swarmed. The senior transferred to Winthrop after two seasons at Division II Grand Valley State in Michigan. His 10 points included a soft jumper with the shot clock winding down that put the Eagles up seven with 1:02 to go.

The freshman Burns flipped a game that the Pirates appeared they might run away with. Hampton led by as many as 15 in the first half and were up 39-32 with 16 minutes to go.

Burns scored 12 of the Eagles' next 21 points on a combination of soft hooks and power spin moves as the Pirates gambled by not double teaming him.

"People have doubted and had some success. People have doubted and gotten burned, pun intended," Kelsey said.

Hampton's Jermaine Marrow,

the nation's third-leading scorer at 25 points a game, was held to 18 points. The senior played all but three minutes over the Pirates three tournament games and scored 32 in a quarterfinal win over Gardner-Webb and 36 in the semifinal win over Radford.

Missouri Valley

Bradley 80, Valparaiso 66: Braves guard Darrell Brown was not happy with his selection to the all-conference second team earlier in the week.

He displayed his displeasure in a big way in St. Louis.

Brown scored 21 points and Elijah Childs added 17 to lead fourth-seeded Bradley to its 10th NCAA Tournament with a win over the seventh-seeded Crusaders in the MVC championship game.

Ja'Shon Henry scored 16 points for the Braves, Nate Kelln chipped in with 14 points and Ville Tahvanainen added 10.

Javon Freeman-Liberty paced Valparaiso with 22 points and 10 rebounds.

Bradley (23-11) claimed its fourth MVC title and became the ninth team in history to defend its tournament crown.

Atlantic Sun

Liberty 73, Lipscomb 57: The Flames are headed to the NCAA Tournament for the second year in a row, but there is a big difference between them making it last year and doing it again.

Expectations.

"Any time you have a target on your back or you're the team that's expected to win, it's hard," coach Ritchie McKay said after host Liberty took command with a long first-half run in the ASUN championship Sunday.

"It's hard to operate, navigate those expectations," said McKay, whose team was picked to win the league. "Our group showed its emotional maturity."

Caleb Homesley and Elijah Cuffee each scored 16 points, helping the Flames earn their fifth NCAA Tournament bid.

Michigan State (22-9, 14-6 Big Ten) shared the conference title with No. 9 Maryland and No. 24 Wisconsin. The Spartans will be the second-seeded team at the Big Ten Tournament behind the Badgers, with the Terrapins seeded third.

The Buckeyes (21-10, 11-9) had won four straight and six of their previous seven games, but they let Michigan State make 54% of its shots in the second half to pull away.

"We just couldn't get enough stops when we needed to," coach Chris Holtmann said.

Ohio State's leading scorer, Kaleb Wesson, was held to eight points on 1-of-8 shooting after entering the day averaging 14-plus points per game.

No. 9 Maryland 83, No. 25 Michigan 70: It really didn't matter to coach Mark Turgeon or the Terrapins that their home win was good for only a share of the regular-season title.

"Would we have liked to have won it outright? Absolutely, but we're still champs," Turgeon declared.

And that was good enough for Maryland, which received its first Big Ten championship trophy since joining the league in 2014. Wisconsin, however, is assured the top seed in the conference tournament this week by virtue of owning the record best in games involving the first-place teams.

The Terrapins held a two-game lead with five to go but lost three of four before defeating the Wolverines to finish 16-1 at home.

Winthrop forward D.J. Burns, right, drives into Hampton forward Benjamin Stanley. Burns had 16 points in a 76-68 win Sunday in the Big South Conference championship game in Rock Hill, S.C.

NELL REDMOND/AP



AL GOLDSKIN/AP

Michigan State's Xavier Tillman, center, and Rocket Watts, right, and Ohio State's Kaleb Wesson, left, and E.J. Liddell vie for a rebound during the Michigan State's 80-69 win Sunday in East Lansing, Mich.

Top 25 roundup

Winston carries Spartans

Senior scores 27 to lead Michigan State to share of Big Ten title

Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Cassius Winston kissed Michigan State's logo in the middle of its basketball court, following the school's quarter-century long tradition toward the end of his last game at the Breslin Center.

The senior scored 27 points to help the 16th-ranked Spartans beat No. 19 Ohio State 80-69 on Sunday to win a share of a third straight Big Ten championship.

"It means the world to have my whole family come and see me in my last home game and to go out like that," he said. "It's an amazing feeling."

Winston was able to celebrate the end of the regular season, nearly four months after the death of his brother.

"I could not have done what he did," coach Tom Izzo said.

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The Terrapins held a two-game lead with five to go but lost three of four before defeating the Wolverines to finish 16-1 at home.

"We had it hanging over us for two weeks. We were in first place for almost four weeks," Turgeon said. "There was a lot on our guys, and obviously this is a big weight off us."

Anthony Cowan Jr. had 20 points and eight assists in his final home game at Maryland. The senior guard went 7-for-11 from the floor and made six free throws in the final minute.

Eric Ayala scored 19, Jalen Smith had 18 points and 11 rebounds and Aaron Wiggins added 15 points for the Terps (24-7, 14-6).

No. 23 Illinois 78, No. 18 Iowa 76: Ayo Dosunmu scored 17 points to secure the No. 4 seed in the Big Ten tournament for the host Illini.

"I mean, there's a respect factor, but on the court it's pure hate," Dosunmu added. "We just don't like each other."

Andres Feliz scored 14 points, Kofi Cockburn had 12 and Kipper Nichols added 10 for Illinois (21-10, 13-7 Big Ten).

Illini coach Brad Underwood said he can't help but notice the growing intensity between the teams.

"I mean, we don't condone this whole hate thing," he said. "I think that's just the guys on the court. But overall, rivalries are awesome. They are great for sports and college basketball. The players love it, and the fans love it."

Luka Garza scored 28 points for the Hawkeyes (20-11, 11-9), who finished in a four-way tie for fifth in the Big Ten and will be the No. 5 seed in the tournament. Joe Mazzulla scored 14 and Connor McCaffery added 10.

No. 21 Houston 64, Memphis 57: Fabian White Jr. kept the host Cougars close before Quentin Grimes provided the late spark to finish the regular season with a win.

White had 18 points and 14 rebounds, and Grimes added 17 points. Grimes had 15 second-half points, which led to a big run for Houston (23-8, 13-5 American Athletic Conference).

"He struggled early in the first half," Houston coach Kelvin Sampson said. "He does that sometimes, but you have to stay with it because I know how good he is. Sometimes they've got to get out of their own way. When he gets out of his own way and gives himself permission to go be a dominant player, he can do it."



Winthrop forward D.J. Burns, right, drives into Hampton forward Benjamin Stanley. Burns had 16 points in a 76-68 win Sunday in the Big South Conference championship game in Rock Hill, S.C.

SPORTS



Battle for Los Angeles

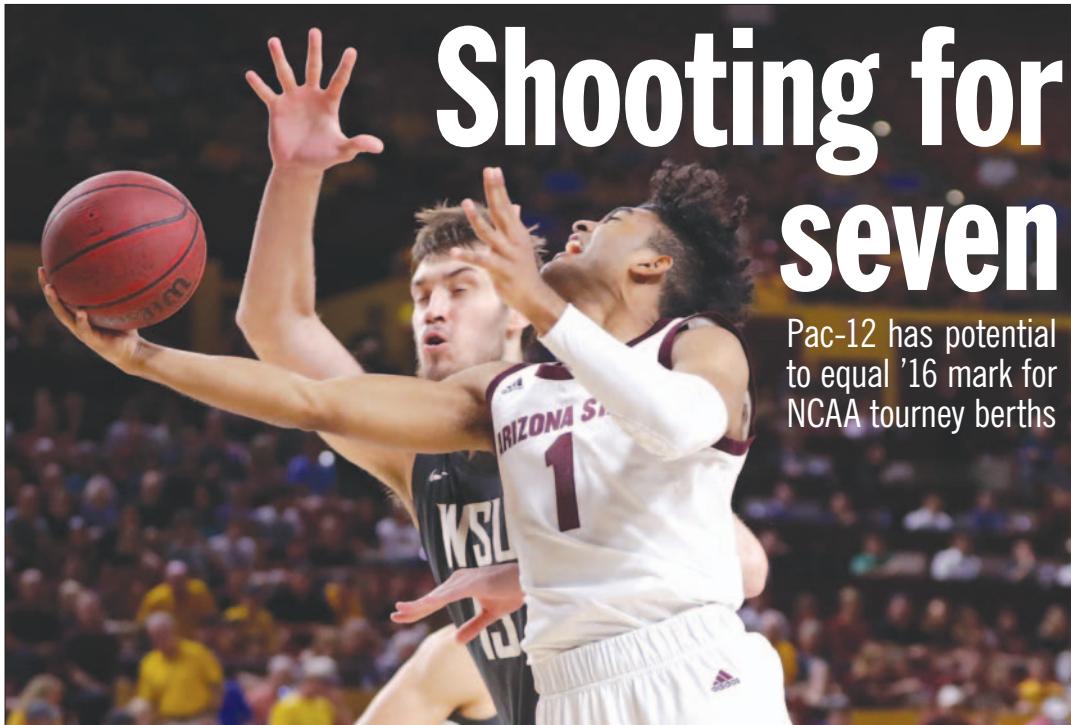
LeBron, Lakers beat Clippers for first time this season » Page 20



BUBBLE WATCH

Shooting for seven

Pac-12 has potential to equal '16 mark for NCAA tourney berths



BY JOHN MARSHALL
Associated Press

The Pac-12 Conference has the potential to get seven teams through to the NCAA Tournament. That would match the past two years combined and equal the conference record set in 2016.

To get there, a few teams may have some work to do at next week's Pac-12 Tournament in Las Vegas.

No. 13 Oregon (24-7, 13-5) earned its third regular-season title in five years and the No. 1 seed in the conference tournament with Saturday's 80-67 victory over Stanford.

NCAA vice president of men's basketball Dan Gavitt told CBS on Sunday that the NCAA Tournament will go on as planned despite the coronavirus and that the Ducks will be in the bracket no matter what happens in Las Vegas.

Colorado (21-10, 10-8) would appear to be a

lock and so would Arizona (20-11, 10-8), thanks to steady seasons and marquee wins.

Southern California (22-9, 11-7) may have popped its NCAA Tournament bubble by beating rival UCLA 54-52 on Saturday.

The loss by the Bruins is likely to keep them on the bubble, due to an ugly start to the season. UCLA (19-12, 12-6) did come alive at the right time, winning seven of its last eight games to finish within a half-game of sharing the conference title with Oregon.

Arizona State (20-11, 11-7) was in position to win the regular-season title just two weeks ago, only to lose three straight games, including to last-place Washington. The Sun Devils gave themselves a little bubble cushion on Saturday, notwithstanding Washington State's late rally to win 83-74 after a nice bounce-back game by guard Remy Martin.

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Top: Arizona State guard Remy Martin (1) drives to the basket past Washington State center Volodymyr Markovitskyy during Saturday's game in Tempe, Ariz. The Sun Devils won 83-74. **Left:** Oregon center Nykolai Denner collides with Stanford forward Lukas Kisumus Saturday in Eugene, Ore. The Ducks, already assured a spot in the upcoming NCAA Tournament, secured the No. 1 seed in their conference tournament with a 80-67 victory over the Cardinal.

PHOTOS BY MATT YORK, ABOVE, AND THOMAS BOYD, LEFT/AP

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